



# LOST LOOS DEBATE IS REVIVED

Report by Rob Cox

**PUBLIC toilets in Wordsley will be sold off by Dudley Council, sparking a fresh debate over the inconvenient truth that there are few places left to spend a penny.**

The loos in Lawnswood Road have been closed since 2011 and Dudley Council now wants them officially declared surplus to requirements.

But the move has been put on hold after ward councillor Paul Brothwood called on villagers to let him know whether they would favour a sale and if so, what they would like to see in the building's place.

The move comes four years after the council sparked controversy by shutting public toilets across the borough to save £150,000. This led to community campaigns including one which got the conveniences in Netherton reopened.



Paul Brothwood by the loos

## Probe into tragedy at beauty spot

AN investigation is being launched by Dudley Council after a man died after wading into a pool at a nature reserve to retrieve a ball.

The tragedy happened when the 25-year-old failed to resurface at Middle Pool at Fens Pool Nature Reserve, Pensnett, on Sunday.

Dominic Rowley, 31, from Brierley Hill, saw the drama unfold. He said: "We were sitting on the bank and saw a man and woman with one or two kids. A football went in the water and he started walking in after it. The ball was only five or six feet out but the ball went further and further out and within 10 seconds he went under. He never resurfaced."

"I phoned the ambulance. Police turned up and then paramedics. They waded in with long poles and life jackets but he was under the water for at least 45 minutes before they got him back out."

Resuscitation attempts were made on the man before he was taken to hospital in a critical condition. His name had not been revealed at the time The Chronicle went to press.

Dudley Council's deputy leader Judy Foster confirmed an investigation would be taking place.

## Arrest after car careers into workmen

TWO workmen were hit by a car after it careered into them as they worked on an electrical communications box in Coseley.

One of the workmen, in his late 20s, suffered serious head injuries and was airlifted to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham in a critical condition.

The other, believed to be in his early 20s, suffered serious facial and arm injuries and was taken to Russells Hall Hospital.

A 16-year-old boy was arrested on suspicion of dangerous driving after the crash in John Holden Avenue on Monday. Police say two people were in the car at the time and they both fled the scene.

The crash happened near the junction with Robert Wynd in Woodcross.

People rushed to help the injured workmen after the grey Citroen Picasso hit them.

Police put a cordon around the area as they carried out their investigations. Debris from the damaged communications box was left strewn across the road.

Anyone with information should call 101.

UKIP's Councillor Brothwood said: "I would like to hear people's views on this. I was elected to represent people in this ward, not my own views, and the toilets belong to them."

"When I first found out about the proposal I thought it seemed a good idea for someone to come in and buy something not in use. But I have been thinking again since and once they have gone - although they are not currently in use - they will not be built again."

"There will be different administrations at the council and should we become the lead group we would actively campaign to see public toilets reopened."

The decision to sell the site follows a review of the council's unused public conveniences by officers.

But Councillor Brothwood says the authority has a duty to provide local services and he believes having public toilets could help bring trade and business into the area.

He added: "It's a real shame we have seen public conveniences close throughout the borough and left in a derelict state."

### Necessary

"The only way we will get people back into places like Wordsley and Kingswinford and Brierley Hill is by offering the necessary facilities."

Dudley councillor Hilary Bills, who is in charge of environmental services, said: "The block has been identified as surplus to requirements following a review into under-used public toilets across the borough."

"Ward members are currently being consulted on the future of the former toilets in Lawnswood Road, Wordsley, and we very much welcome their feedback in the appropriate way. We are happy to be flexible with the deadline, within reason, to make sure they have their say."

## We're really going to miss you, Miss!



Carol Green, a teacher at Bellevue Primary School in Wordsley, is retiring after 40 years teaching, 25 years of which were at Bellevue

## Teacher is retiring

A TEACHER who spent a total of 40 years at two primary schools within a mile of each other is set to retire.

Carol Green worked at Brook Primary in Wordsley for 15 years before moving down the road to Bellevue Primary, where she has been employed for 25 years.

After four decades in the education system popular Mrs Green retired at the end of term last Friday.

Mrs Green, aged 62, said: "When I started out they were the days of blackboards."

"I can remember the first computer with floppy disks the size of exercise books. It was very different back then."

"But some of the main changes

have been the politicians, who keep interfering. I think politicians should be kept out of education and let the people who really know what's going on take it forward."

At Bellevue, in Lawnswood Road, her 25-year stint meant she had taught two generations of the same family. Mrs Green spent time working as an information and communications technology co-ordinator and enjoyed the diversity in teaching in a primary school.

"The variety is absolutely brilliant and that suited me perfectly," she said.

One of her highlights was the installation of a sculpture trail at Belle Vue which she described as a brilliant community occasion.

### SCHOOLS

## Pupils' meal cost goes up 10p a day

FAMILIES will have to fork out extra for school meals in Dudley from September.

The price charged for a meal in all primary and special schools across the borough will increase by 10p - from £2 to £2.10 a day. This equates to £10.50 per week.

Prices for individually priced food in primary and secondary schools will rise by five per cent from the start of the new school year. The increase will bring in an extra £150,000 per annum for the council, which bosses say will cover food, energy and staff costs.

### PARKING

## Work takes place to improve car park

LONG-AWAITED work to improve a multi-storey car park in Stourbridge is being carried out this week.

Resurfacing work on the ramps at the Ryemarket car park began on Sunday and will continue on evenings throughout this week. Dudley Council said work to weatherproof the ramps will be carried out on a Sunday when conditions are dry.

Stourbridge MP Margot James had urged the council to make improvements to the town centre car park.

### HOLIDAYS

## Chief is criticised over parent fine call

OFSTED'S chief inspector has been told to 'come out of the 19th century' after calling for parents to face hettier fines for taking children out of school in term time.

As the summer holiday began, Sir Michael Wilshaw called for tougher penalties. But Councillor David Sparks, chairman of the Local Government Association and former leader of Dudley Council, said the power should be handed to head teachers for 'common sense' to prevail.

Councillor Sparks said: "Wilshaw should come out of the 19th century, when everybody was governed by the hours of the mill, the mine and the foundry."

### INSIDE

## HIPPODROME MEMORIES



PAGE 8



# Wombourne



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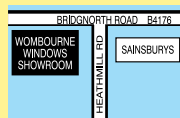
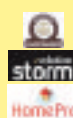
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<b>CONTENTS</b>	
<b>MARK ANDREWS</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>LETTERS</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>MEMORY LANE</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>PLACES TO VISIT</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>THE FAST TICKET</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>PUZZLES</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>MOTORING</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>SPORT</b>	<b>39 &amp; 40</b>
<b>CONTACT US</b>	

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# Motorway business hub plan ditched



Happy — James Morris MP

PLANS for an enterprise zone beside a stretch of the M5 in Halesowen have been dropped in what is being hailed as a victory for 'people power'.

Dudley Council was exploring the possibility of transforming land near junction 3 of the motorway, near Halesowen, into a hub for businesses.

But the proposals faced a fierce backlash from campaigners who feared part of the green belt would be swallowed up.

At a meeting of Dudley Council on Monday it was agreed to scrap the plans which had sought to create around 6,000 jobs.

Council leader Pete Lowe, said: "Given the clear level of concern over the junction 3 proposals I have decided to recommend to the council that the proposed feasibility exercise be removed fully. I will advise instead we continue work to deliver enterprise zones in Brierley Hill and elsewhere as promised by the Chancellor in the run up the election, to build on the work this council has done at the Business Investment Zone at The Waterfront.

"This is a clear indication that this council will listen to the wishes of the communities we represent."

An online petition called Save Halesowen's Countryside had been signed by 3,532 people and a further petition set up by Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris, had gathered 937 signatures.

Conservative MP Mr Morris hailed the council's U-turn a victory for 'people power'. He said: "I am relieved and happy to hear that Dudley Council have finally caved in on their plans to look at an industrial park on Halesowen's greenbelt.

"From the very beginning these plans were ill-thought out and plain daft."

# £17m being spent on empty council homes

**MORE than £17 million is being spent maintaining hundreds of empty council homes in Dudley borough.**

Dudley Council used the money to ensure the properties are safe and secure. There are currently 633 empty council houses in the borough.

Meanwhile, 2,370 people remain on the authority's waiting list.

Council officials said they have an increasing backlog of properties which it has found difficult to let. They also say there have been problems letting high rise flats and three bedroom maisonettes.

Housing boss Councillor Gaye Partridge said: "Void properties are a major issue for any landlord and we certainly do all we can to ensure that empty properties are filled as quickly as possible.

"However, as the biggest provider of homes in the borough there is a balance to strike between getting void properties back into use and maintaining and improving tenanted homes. The work we do on council properties is part of our wider commitment as a local authority to provide good quality homes across the borough."

Necessary maintenance includes electricity tests, rewiring, plastering and clearing gardens.

## Decline

Councillor Patrick Harley, leader of the council's Conservative opposition, said the root cause of the £17.2m bill had been long-term tenants who have allowed the condition of their homes to decline.

He said: "What we would like to see is the council introduce a five year tenancy agreement. That doesn't mean at the end of the agreement an old lady is kicked out of her home but, after five years, if someone has point blank refused access for the council to come in and keep the property up-to-date then we can review their tenancy. It would also make it far easier to deal with anti-social behaviour."

In June last year the council announced a £15m project to refurbish council homes. It includes work on empty homes to enable them to be re-let. Since it began the number of people on the waiting list has fallen from 4,191 to 2,370 but the number of empty homes has risen from around 570 to 633 over the same period.

## Do you mind if we just barge in?



The Age UK Dudley Springboarders Drama Group featuring Chris Priest, top, May Hillman, left, and Fran Cartwright

PENSIONERS joined in the fun as a host of events were held at an Age UK centre to celebrate Black Country Day.

It was faggots and paes all round on the Waterfront in Brierley Hill as around 80 people attended to join in a range of events organised by Age UK's springboard team. Celebrations are going on all month.

A local drama group took advantage of the canalside setting, performing their show About a Barge - completely in Black Country dialect - while Black Country poet Dave Reeves also entertained the visitors.

They also witnessed a performance from a ballroom dancing group and a Black Country-themed quiz rounded off the regional celebrations.

Fran Cartwright, who is part of the Brierley Hill springboard team, said their clients, who were aged from 50 to 93, enjoyed the day.

She said: "We did a celebration for Black Country Day last year.

"It was such a success we wanted to repeat it and reach more people.

"The clients come here to the activity centre during the week and they had a wonderful time.

"Many of them are still talking about it now.

"They had faggots and paes and tea."

With many of the people in attendance having spent much of their lives in the Black Country, the team thought it was important to allow them to join in the fun.

# Care homes facing extra costs due to wage rises

CARE home owners in the West Midlands will struggle to cope with the introduction of a higher minimum wage, they claim.

Debbie Le Quesne, chief executive of West Midlands Care Association (WMCA), which represents private sector care providers, warned the industry was at 'breaking point'.

She said although employers welcomed better pay rates, it will add £23 per week to the care cost of every Midlands person in residential care.

She said that Chancellor George Osborne's Budget had done no favours to the care industry in the Midlands.

"Most domiciliary providers are on set local authority contracts which have seen next to nothing in increases over the past five years," she explained.

## Savings

"They are still trying to work out how to find funds to pay travel time and now a second increase in outgoings looms.

"Calculations do not include external price rises we expect to see from our suppliers, who will also need to pass on their increased production costs," she added.

"There simply isn't anywhere for extra savings to be made. Years of austerity have taken their toll and the creative thinking is through."

"The Local Government Association, which represents more than 400 authorities in England and Wales, said the cost of implementing the policy should be taken into account when council funding levels are set in future."

# Hall is revealed in evening tours

HIMLEY Hall will be opening doors to rooms usually closed to the public in evening guided tours until September.

Visitors will get glimpse behind the scenes, from the butler's sitting room to the Earl of Dudley's bedrooms, as well as the refurbished North Wing complete with an art deco-style swimming pool room and cinema bar.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "Himley has such a colourful past that there is a strong local fascination with its history. Every time the hall offers guided tours we learn something new."

The tours cost £7.20 per person including refreshments and start between 7.15 and 7.30pm. Places need to be booked by calling (01384) 817817.

# Police stepping up patrols at park

YOBS have been riding off-road bikes through a Kingswinford park prompting a police crackdown.

Officers have stepped up patrols at the beauty spot, also known as King George VI Park, after residents complained bikers were riding on grassed areas.



NEWS IN BRIEF

# Teddy bear picnic time at museum

YOUNG visitors to Broadfield House Glass Museum will be in for a big surprise this afternoon (Thursday). The Kingswinford attraction is hosting a teddy bears picnic as part of an under-fives day from noon until 4pm.

Families can bring along their favourite picnic treats and blankets to enjoy lunch in the grounds of the glass museum. Youngsters can take part in storytelling sessions and craft activities.

Admission to the museum is free. For details call (01384) 812745.

# Anger as vandals tear down tree

A TREE has been attacked by yobs in Lye town centre.

The tree in High Street was torn down on a front lawn outside some flats.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "We received a report of a vandalised semi-mature silver birch tree in High Street, Lye and sent officers out to inspect the damage. Given the tree's location, the damage sustained and its condition, we removed it. We rely on people reporting these mindless yobs to police as soon as possible."

# Open day after Roseland revamp

A REFURBISHED community centre is hosting an open day for people to find out more about the facilities on offer.

Roseland House in Dudley has undergone a major refurbishment and now has full disabled access and toilets, along with space for community activities including a new garden room, kitchen and cafe. The centre is available seven days a week, including evenings. The open day is on Wednesday, July 29, from 10am until 4pm.

# Volunteers needed for latest hospice shop

VOLUNTEERS are needed to help run a new charity shop opening in Dudley town centre at this month.

The latest Mary Stevens Hospice shop, at units 209 and 211 High Street, will open to the public on July 31.

A chain of shops across the Black Country raise funds to support the Stourbridge hospice.

Anyone who would like to help in the shop can contact Mary Stevens Hospice Trading on (01384) 671149.

# Cider and sausages

A LYE brewery is putting on a cider event during a nearby beer festival.

A cider and sausage festival is to take place at Sadler's Brewhouse in Station Road, from August 13 to 16. Sadler's beers will be on sale at the Black Country Beer Festival at nearby Lye Cricket Club, August 13 to 15.

# Hundreds of children waiting to be adopted

MORE than 300 children across the West Midlands are waiting to be adopted, according to new figures - 40 are waiting in Dudley alone.

There are 80 children in Wolverhampton, 20 in Sandwell, 40 in Dudley, 40 in Walsall, plus 95 in Staffordshire and 40 in Worcestershire.

There are potential new families available but many people are waiting for more than six months to get approved as adopters after they apply.

The Government has launched a website featuring maps of areas with the biggest demand for adoptive parents. Chiefs say there are often more potential adopters available than there are children waiting but council boundaries can hold up the process.

In Dudley, 10 families were approved for adoption from April to December 2014, but none of these were given the green light within six months. Of the 15 approved in Walsall in the same period, 10 were within six months, compared to five of the 20 in Sandwell. Thirty out of the 60 families in Staffordshire were approved in six months.

It comes after Wolverhampton revealed an average of 673 days between a child entering care and moving in with a family. The target is 548.

Figures show 690 children are waiting across the whole of the West Midlands, many having spent months in care. In 2014-15, 460 children in the West Midlands were found a permanent home.

Visit [www.first4adoption.org.uk/](http://www.first4adoption.org.uk/) or call 0300 2220022.

# Ward is praised for its care levels

A MENTAL health ward in the Black Country has been rated as excellent by authorities.

Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust got the level 1 rating from AIMS (Accreditation for Acute Inpatient Mental Health Services) for the Client Ward, at Bushey Fields Hospital in Dudley.

The assessors found the ward environment, facilities and staff attitude were all of the highest standard. They also praised the team's communication, creative thinking and emphasis on continued training.

AIMS is a partnership between the Royal College of Psychiatrists, the British Psychological Society, the College of Occupational Therapists and the Royal College of Nursing.

# Beefeater gets a £250k makeover

A RESTAURANT in Kingswinford has been given a £250,000 revamp, creating five jobs. The Kingswinford Beefeater in Dudley Road has been refurbished with booth seating, revamped bar area and new menu.

# Arboretum memorial for Gulf War troops



An artist's impression of the memorial

A PERMANENT memorial for troops who died in the Gulf War will be unveiled at the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas in February.

It will be built in memory of 47 men who died in the conflict, including Shaun Taylor, of Stourbridge, and Kieran Duffy, from Kidderminster.

Volunteers have generated more than £70,000 but the fundraising is continuing, with organiser Michael Rowley riding a motorcycle from the arboretum to the home towns and cities of all 47 men killed in the conflict to boost the fund, from August 16.

An event to unveil the memorial is planned for February 28, 2016, to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the end of the conflict.

Mr Rowley said it had been a 'long road' to raise the cash to give the fallen a tribute they deserve but groundwork would begin later this year at the site. He added: "This memorial to the 47 lost is 20 years overdue."

Other fundraising events are being staged to boost coffers and pay for the upkeep of the memorial at the arboretum near the A38 in Alrewas,

Staffordshire. A night of music will be held at the Parkes Hall Social Club in Parkes Hall Road, Dudley, on August 8 from 7pm. Volunteers will take part in a charity tandem parachute jump on August 12 in Banbury, Oxfordshire. Among donations was £25,000 from the Ambassador of Kuwait.

The conflict saw coalition forces from 34 nations, led by the United States, fight Iraq after that country's invasion of Kuwait.

The memorial will be made up of three metal structures and will incorporate the names of those who died.

# Conman duped way into plumbing lecturer post

A CONMAN from Stourbridge managed to get a job teaching plumbing students in the Black Country.

He duped bosses with false qualifications and went undetected for almost six months and many of his students had to be reassessed when his lies were revealed.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard how Andrew Woodfield succeeded in getting the lecturing job at Walsall Training Centre by presenting qualifications that weren't his and were under a different name.

When asked about this, Woodfield claimed he had changed his name as he was adopted but had since reverted back to his original name.

The qualifications actually belonged to a man called Nicholas Davies, from Wrexham, North Wales. The pair had briefly come into contact in Birmingham. Mr Davies had no idea Woodfield was using his qualifications.

Students taking their NVQs under Woodfield's 'guidance' who achieved qualifications had to be reassessed.

The 45-year-old, of Queensway, Stourbridge, was paid £13,000 during his time at the centre.

Alarm bells began ringing for his boss Steve Edis, who had given him the job at the centre on Birchills House Industrial Estate, when it was noticed that the date of birth was also different to that on the qualifications documents.

## Angry

Woodfield's admitted that he did not have the relevant qualifications for the role. He was handed a 12-month prison sentence on last week, suspended for two years, after pleading guilty to fraud by false representation. He must complete 100 hours of unpaid work.

"All the students that were signed off had to be reassessed," Mr Edward Soulsby, prosecuting, said. "Nicholas Davies was contacted and was very angry when he was told somebody was passing off his qualifications as their own. It angered him that someone would lie their way through on his reputation."

The court heard that Woodfield has previously used false documents to obtain goods.

Judge Helen Hughes said: "You have indulged in serious deception. Students thought they had gained qualifications and must have been shocked and disappointed when they had to be reassessed."

Mr Christopher O'Gorman, defending, said no problems were ever raised about Woodfield's conduct while working at the centre.

# Thea's making history this summer



Black Country schoolgirl Thea Hunt launches the English Heritage wish list at Kenilworth Castle

AN eight-year-old girl from Stourbridge has been appointed to a special role at English Heritage to give a 'kid's-eye' view of its historic buildings and monuments.

Thea Hunt has been made the charity's child executive officer in a bid to improve its events for families. Her first job was unveiling the results of a survey to find youngster's top history-inspired wishes.

Top on the list was the dream

of discovering hidden treasure, followed by a desire to be king or queen for a day, followed by the chance to sit on a throne. Thea will be tasked with making a number of these wishes a reality.

Emily Sewell, of English Heritage, said: "We already run a huge programme of great family events across the country but we wanted to make it even better this summer and the best way to do that is to put children in charge."

More than 500 children applied for the role and 50 were then interviewed. Bosses at English Heritage - which looks after sites including Stonehenge and Hadrian's Wall - said Thea stood out for her passion, energy and generosity.

The Belle Vue School pupil said: "I can't wait to see the faces of children and their families when they're doing the events from our History Wish List."

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AS the Greek tragedy drags on a reader writes: "Have you noticed, when spoken quickly, how "euros" sounds just like like "Ious"?"

BROTHERS, let us build the New Jerusalem on brownfield sites. Let us streamline the planning laws to allow all the houses we need to be constructed on the disused land of old factories, railway yards or quarries. The Government has spelt out its vision What could possibly go wrong?

I'LL tell you what could go wrong. I was once shown an old Coal Board map of the known pit shafts, some more than 200 years old, in the Black Country. There were hundreds. In theory, the shafts were all sealed. In reality, some were covered with a few wooden planks and a load of soil. The moment you start digging into brownfield sites, you may hit all sorts of nasties. Pit shafts are merely one worry. It is not unknown for 21st century developers to discover 19th century cyanide lagoons. Occasionally, a vehicle plummets into an unknown chamber covered by turf. If Whitehall tears up the planning laws tomorrow, do not expect developers to rush for brownfield sites. They much prefer the predictable security of a nice green field.

IN a mean-spirited article for the Guardian, Jonathan Jones slagged off the official photographs of Princes Charlotte's christening, ridiculing "their faces lit up by hysterical joy, their hair wispy in the sun, their teeth shining like diamond walls of privilege, and their eyes betraying no signs of thought whatsoever." In other words, the



perfect christening snaps. It may come as news to the Guardian but most parents and grandparents want pictures showing their brood at its best, even if it does not reflect the absolute truth. This is why so many homes have framed photographs of Gavin on graduation day, proudly attired in gown and mortar board and clutching £27,000 worth of 2:2 BA in Media Studies. The truth is that Gavin spent most of his time at Uni face-down in an alcoholic haze and eventually landed a washing-up job at the abattoir. But who wants photos of all that? Family snaps are propaganda, not gospel.

A NEIGHBOUR told me she was expecting a bumper crop of gooseberries this year and seemed surprised when I grimaced. Seriously, does anyone really enjoy gooseberries? My stomach turns at the very thought of the texture, the taste and those obscene little prickles. It's like biting into a hairy eyeball with the aftertaste of earwax.

The neighbour says a pot of her gooseberry jam will change my mind. Wanna bet? And do not get me started on guacamole.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# Landlord fined over hazards at house

A LANDLORD who failed to make safety improvements to a property he rented out to a family has been fined.

Electrical hazards, an unsafe out-building, a dilapidated external staircase, as well as damp and mould were found at the house in Dudley owned by Balraj Singh Timana, from Claregate in Wolverhampton.

He had been issued with an im-

provement notice on June 12, 2014, and given 12 weeks to comply.

But he did not carry any of the work needed at the three-bedroom house in Dudley.

## Notice

Timana pleaded guilty to failing to comply with an improvement notice and was fined £4,750 at Dudley Magistrates on July 9.

He was also ordered to pay council costs of £1,492.50, along with a victim surcharge of £120.

Councillor Gave Partridge, Dudley Council's cabinet member for housing, said: "This was a particularly worrying case as there were children living in the premises and the landlord had done nothing at all to comply with the notice."

"The staff in private sector hous-

ing work extremely hard to ensure the health and welfare of borough tenants, which is shown in their vigilance in getting another case to a successful outcome.

"It is the second case in as many months and highlights our commitment to making sure that landlords who fail to keep their properties up to a safe standard will be prosecuted."

# Health alliance aims to benefit patients

by Craig Hughes

**FEWER patients will need to go outside the Black Country for treatment following a link-up of health trusts, bosses have said.**

Staff could be shared across hospitals to cut the costs of temporary workers, make it easier to recruit and share best practices to the benefit of patients.

Bosses at the health trusts in Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall, which form the new Black Country Alliance, insist patients will not be forced to travel further for specialist treatment. Instead they want to develop their own specialist services, meaning many people will not have to go to Birmingham for cancer care and neurology.

The partnership between The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, and Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust was announced last week. Between them they cater for more than a million people and have over 10,000 staff.

Paula Clark, Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said: "We are going to learn from each organisation, what are the very best standards and how to do raise those standards."

"This is a really exciting time for all three trusts as we aim to be able to keep and return specialist services to the Black Country for our patients, who may otherwise have to go to a larger Trust further afield to receive treatment.

## Opportunities

"It offers opportunities to our staff through collaborative working, we will encourage innovative ways to provide the best possible care, developing centres of excellence in the Black Country."

Walsall chief executive Richard Kirby said: "The core of this is to do as much as we can locally. We are more likely to move staff around than patients around."

Bosses say they are being encouraged by NHS England to look at new models of care.

## Badger bother as setts wreck gardens



Ex-mayor Rosemary Tomkinson looks at the badgers' sett at the bottom of her garden

BADGERS have caused havoc for a row of neighbours by creating huge holes like this in their gardens.

The hole at the top of Rosemary Tomkinson's garden in Seager's Lane, Brierley Hill, measures around three metres across.

And it is not just one garden but six in the street which have been badly affected by the burrowing badgers.

The road is three miles away from Short Street, Stourbridge, where residents have faced similar problems.

Mrs Tomkinson, aged 79, a former Dudley mayor, said her garden is a 'no-go' area now.

"I had plans for moving the old swing and doing things at that end of the garden but I cannot do that now," she said.

"One of the worst things was when they dug up all my tulip bulbs which my daughter had kindly planted for me. She had also done a display for me in the gazebo but the badgers came in and knocked it all over."

Mrs Tomkinson said she first noticed the holes in her neighbour's garden around two years ago.

At first she thought about filling the hole in her garden with dirt or rocks but was told doing so would be illegal. She then contacted Natural England but said she could not afford their proposed solutions which included chain-link and electrical fencing.

Although some parts of the country have had a cull of badgers to protect cows from bovine tuberculosis, badgers are a protected species.

# Molineux return for Liquidator is ruled out

WOLVES have confirmed that they have no plans to play The Liquidator this season after an online petition to lift the club ban on the tune.

Fan Jason Haycock has set up the petition on change.org calling on West Midlands Police to lift the ban on playing the track — and it has been signed by more than 1,700 people.

However, the club has confirmed it was a decision taken by them, not the police, and they will not change the policy. The club stopped playing the pre-match reggae instrumental after it was hijacked by some supporters shouting obscenities.

The petition states: "Many English clubs still continue to play this song as a way of rousing the crowd at their stadiums. For reasons known only to West Midlands Police it was banned at Molineux but not The Hawthorns, amongst many other grounds. It's synonymous with Wolves and we should work together to get the ban lifted and get part of our club back!"

## Family

Club spokesman Matt Grayson, said: "We know some fans would like The Liquidator to return and we're always addressing questions on the topic.

"We're a family club and the fact is that when we play The Liquidator it unfortunately results in bad language. There's no change to the club's position and we have no plans to play The Liquidator this season. It's the club's decision and it isn't a police matter."

## Disabled spaces get a guarantee

PARKING bays for blue badge holders will be set aside when 91 council workers move offices. Fears of parking chaos had been expressed over the move by more staff to the Mere Centre in Lawnswood Road, Wordsley.

Councillor Derrick Hemingsley called for five bays to be allocated for disabled users of neighbouring Richardson Hall — a measure which has now been approved by council bosses.

Dudley Council deputy leader Judy Foster said: "This move has to balance the needs of staff with people in the area. As a community council we have worked very hard with ward councillors and the community to make sure their views are taken on board."

The move came after complaints of staff taking too many parking spaces at Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Park.

## Terraced homes make way for new housing

TEN homes will be built in Lye after councillors backed the plans.

The properties will be built by Frost Developments off Brook Street and Attwood Street, after a row of terraced houses were demolished. Off-street parking will be provided.

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## Cousins in court after ‘pathetic’ pub clash

THREE men behaved ‘like children’ during a row at a pub in the Black Country, according to a judge.

Cousins Thomas, Patrick and Anthony Doherty clashed with other customers at the Shireland Inn at Smethwick over a comment made about the wife of one of the men, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Pool cues were grabbed and men started pushing and shoving as tempers frayed. Then a snooker ball was thrown and one man tore off his shirt as rival factions goaded each other, said Mr Geoffrey Dann, prosecuting.

A bar stool was hurled across the pub as police officers arrived. The men involved in the altercation with the Dohertys slipped out by a back door, while the trio were arrested.

### Suspended

Anthony Doherty, 31, and 25-year-old Patrick, both of High Street, Brierley Hill, each admitted affray. The elder, who has a job in Germany, was given an eight-month jail sentence suspended for 18 months and ordered to pay £800 costs. Patrick Doherty received a 12-month prison term suspended for the same period, with £150 court costs.

Thomas Doherty, 27, of Wyn-Griffith Drive, Tipton, pleaded guilty to a public order offence and was given a year community order under supervision with £150 costs.

Recorder Jason MacAdam said: “This was pathetic, childlike behaviour by all concerned. Men of your age should know better.”

## Owners of two food outlets fined

THE owners of two food outlets in Stourbridge have been ordered to pay thousands of pounds after environment officers found hygiene failings.

Hayes Cafe, in Stour Vale Road, Lye, and Herbs & Spices Takeaway, Hagley Road, Stourbridge, were both found to be dirty and equipment was defective or poorly maintained.

Owners of both appeared at Dudley Magistrates Court and pleaded guilty to seven offences each under food hygiene regulations.

Muhammed Ahmad, owner of Herbs and Spices takeaway, was fined £4,669 and ordered to pay costs of £2,052.60 and a victim surcharge of £67. Andrew Newton, owner of Hayes Cafe, was fined £2,450, has to pay costs of £1,330.30 and a £35 victim surcharge.

## Cannabis plants found at house

MORE than 160 cannabis plants were discovered by an electrical engineer carrying out a routine check at a Dudley house. Police seized cannabis found growing in two bedrooms and loft at a property in Richmond Road.

# Staff sacked for too many sick days

SIXTEEN staff have been sacked by Dudley Council for taking too many sick days during the past 12 months.

New figures reveal sickness absence at the authority has risen to an average of two working weeks a year.

Council bosses said it was a ‘last resort’ to sack several non-attendees and was only done when all other options had failed.

A total of 90,677.43 days were lost by workers taking sick days at the authority in 2014/15 – the equivalent of 248 years. This works out as an average of 10.26 days per full-time equivalent (FTE) member of staff.

Council bosses insisted they took action to reduce

staff sickness levels and ‘a small number’ of workers had lost their jobs because of repeated absence.

Last year in the UK, the average worker called in sick four times.

The Dudley figures include both council and school staff. The council employs around 8,836 FTE workers. In the 2013/14 the sickness rate worked out as an average of 9.52 days per FTE member of staff

**Duty**

Councillor Judy Foster, cabinet member for corporate and customer services, said: “Our staff work very hard and frequently go above and beyond the call of duty to give the best possible service.

“It is the mark of a good employer that we provide support for staff when they need it through sickness or other pressures which may impact on their work. “However, in a small number of cases, and as a last resort, we have had to end contracts where all other options have been explored and exhausted.”

She added: “Dudley Council is dedicated to managing employee sickness through the implementation of an attendance management policy.

“The council is adopting a more comprehensive approach to managing attendance as part of a wider health, safety and wellbeing initiative, which is being introduced in conjunction with our colleagues from public health. We will continue to work to reduce the level of sickness as much as possible.”

# Dozens of new homes on way at steelworks site

**A FORMER steelworks site in Brierley Hill could be regenerated for housing as plans to build dozens of homes have been revealed.**

The Cookley Works site in Brockmoor, where metal working took place for more than 150 years, has been dormant since its closure in 2006.

Factories have since been demolished, leaving the vast site empty after decades when it formed a major part of the town’s industrial heritage

Developer Harris Lamb has now signalled its intention to build 70 homes, transforming the area off Leys Road.

The company said the scheme would bring ‘many benefits’ to Brierley Hill with around a third of the new properties being designated as affordable housing.

The development would feature two-storey properties as well as bungalows and maisonettes, ranging from one to three bedrooms.

A design and access statement submitted to Dudley Council said: “The development will enable the creation of a small, new community within Brierley Hill.

“The affordable housing will offer the opportunity for prospective tenants on the council’s waiting list to be housed in new, up-to-date, modern dwellings.

**Ownership**

“The affordable housing will bring the opportunity for people to take their first steps on the housing ladder through shared ownership.”

Nearly 40 jobs were lost when Cookley Works was axed by steel giant Corus. The plant, which had a long and proud history in the town, had been in a period of steady decline with its workforce having plummeted from the 1,500 employed during its 1960s heyday.

Dudley councillor Ken Finchwelcomed the plans to bring the historic site back into use, but admitted he would prefer more of the new homes to be affordable.

He said: “These sites are obsolete and doing nothing, and as much as I would like to see more industry, they have got to be used.

“Brownfield sites need to be used, people don’t want building on their little area of green belt. Everybody is aware of the need for housing and I have got nothing against these developments as long as there is affordable housing. There is only going to be a percentage and I still think there should be more.”

## Car lands on roof after collision



**The Ford KA was badly damaged after flipping onto its roof but the driver escaped with cuts and bruises**

A MAN was lucky to escape with cuts and bruises when his car overturned after a collision with a van in Wordsley.

The Ford KA dipped onto its roof in the crash, before coming to rest against a minibus. Wordsley High Street was closed outside The Rose and Crown pub at the junction of Kinver Street following the smash.

Traffic jams were caused in the area following the crash, which happened at around 9am on Thursday, July 16. The man managed to scramble from the stricken car by the time firefighters from Brierley Hill arrived.

He was treated at the scene for cuts and bruises but did not require hospital treatment.

Police blocked off the road for more than an hour to allow for the recovery of the car.

Bus services also had to be diverted as tailbacks built up. National Express advised customers through social media of changes to bus routes in the area.

Crew commander Mark Harris, from Brierley Hill fire station, said: “The man had already got out of the car when we arrived and luckily suffered just cuts and bruises. The car had come to rest against a minibus. There was just the driver and one child on board but they were uninjured.”

The cause is being investigated.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Former school now facing demolition

A SECONDARY school, which closed despite a battle to save it by parents, is set to be demolished.

Pensnett High School in Tiled House Lane shut its doors in August 2010 due to falling pupil numbers and poor exam results.

It is now set to be flattened to allow work on a new £1.6 million education centre for young people with learning difficulties.

Dudley Council has applied for permission to demolish the building.

The new centre will be run by Pens Meadow Special School.

## Dedicated mother climbs mountain

A CAMPAIGNER whose son died of asbestos-related illness has raised £800 for charity by climbing the highest mountain in Wales and holding a vintage sale.

Mary Law, whose son Roy Shipley died in 2010, took on the challenge at Mount Snowdon to support Mesothelioma UK.

She opened the Arc-Aid charity shop in New Street, Dudley, four years ago but moved to a bigger unit in New Street last month.

And a vintage sale at The Crepe Station in Stone Street raised £183.

## Friends staging charity concert

FOUR musical friends from Kingswinford are putting on a concert for charity.

The show called ‘A Musical Send Off’ is at The Crestwood School, Bromley Lane, on August 5. Proceeds will go towards Disability In Action.

Adam Smith, one of the performers, said: “It will be a sit down event with lots of familiar songs from the musicals that everyone can join in with.”

Doors will open 6.30pm and tickets cost £5. Call 07889473452.

**Baggeridge run being held for Action Heart**

A 5km evening run is being held around the paths and trails at a country park, near Sedgley.

The Baggeridge 5K will be taking place on Thursday, August 6, at 7pm at Baggeridge Country Park, Gospel End. It is being organised by the Action Heart Running Club at Russells Hall Hospital, with proceeds to the Action Heart cardiac rehabilitation programme.

For details on how to enter contact (01384) 292233.

## New venue for show

THE Black Country Fuchsia Society has a new venue for its annual show.

It is being held at The Hub, Griffiths Drive, Wednesfield, on August 1 from 12.30pm to 5pm. The society, which has been going for more than 30 years, holds monthly meetings from January to November.

### ADVERTISEMENT

# Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It’s been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it’s all about service. “Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it’s not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn’t focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn’t expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.”

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. “The truth is that it’s not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I’ve done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.”

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he’ll be happy to help!



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## IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



# The not so beautiful aspect of our game

IT hasn't been a great week for the Beautiful Game. We've had Raheem Sterling jumping up and down like a spoiled child because of Liverpool's reluctance to let him join moneybags Manchester City.

Then, Villa captain Fabian Delph decided to take a slice of Sheikh Mansoor's money, days after issuing a heartfelt pledge of loyalty and undying love for Tim Sherwood's side.

In an ideal world, Roy Hodgson would say that neither of these mercenaries would ever pull on the England shirt again, but we all know that is not going to happen. We now have radio pundits who trot out the old "no loyalty in football" cliché as if it something we should commend.

Then we come to West Bromwich Albion's new boy James McLean, who decided to voice his disapproval for all things English by turning his back on the St George's flag and refusing to sing the national anthem. Very mature, wouldn't you agree?

Apparently, young James is from a staunch Republican background in Northern Ireland. Previously, he refused to wear a Remembrance poppy in protest at Republicans killed by British soldiers during the Troubles.

Clearly, Mr McClean does not have much time for England, which of course, is his right.

However, since he finds this country so objectionable, perhaps he might consider why he is living and working here.

If he really wanted to demonstrate his Republican loyalties, he ought to shun the bright lights and riches of the Premier League, and try his luck at Carrick Rangers or Dungannon United. Now that would be a genuine display of principle.

■■■■

SHOW me a motorist who has never broken a speed limit by 1mph, and I will show you a liar. Which is why we should all be very concerned about the plans for a new "zero tolerance" approach to speeding offences in Scotland.

Police Scotland plans to issue warning letters to anybody who is clocked exceeding the speed limit by just a single mile per hour, with fines and penalty points for anybody who is caught doing the same a second time.

At the moment it is part of a six-month "pilot study", with the threat that "if successful" it will be introduced in other parts of the UK, or "rolled out", to use the fashionable parlance.

We'll take that as read then.

In other words, within a year or so anyone found driving at 31mph in a 30 could very easily be fined. Get caught a few times doing 31mph, and you will probably be banned.

And as everybody does 31mph at some time or other, it will simply be a matter of luck who gets nabbed.



Paul Whyley pictured with his daughters, Heather and Lauren



Paul with grandchildren Isabella, Rufus, Valentina and William



Eddie Redmayne as Stephen Hawking in The Theory of Everything

# Oscar winner helped me spot my disease

Watching a film about Stephen Hawking, Paul Whyley realised he had the same symptoms, **ROB COX reports**

**RELAXING in his cinema seat alongside his wife, Paul Whyley was enjoying Oscar nominated Stephen Hawking biopic The Theory of Everything, when a slow realisation came upon him.**

For months the 62-year-old grandfather-of-four, had been having difficulty controlling his fingers, had problems moving his arm and experienced a number of trips and falls.

Doctors had been unable to come up with a diagnosis, and he had passed it off as encroaching old age, but with mounting horror he realised that he was suffering the same symptoms as the character on screen.

He says: "The first problem I had as with my shoulder. I got numb fingers and sometimes I would drop my keys and there, on screen I saw Eddie Redmayne with similar symptoms. He was unable to control his fingers."

"In another scene they run through a list of all the symptoms associated with Motor Neurone Disease and I thought 'bloody hell, I have got every single one of them'."

"I had the dropped foot, although it was a bit dramatic in the film. He went keeling over with no control of anything but it doesn't get you like that, it is little things like tripping at first. I know because I have experienced it."

"There was the scene with the blackboard as well. He couldn't lift his arm and I used to get pain when drilling at work."

Sitting in the dark at the Odeon cinema at Merry Hill shopping centre he pushed the realisation to the back of his mind - unable even to share his fears with his wife.

But he sought advice and was told by a doctor that he needed a nerve conduction test to establish whether he had the disease.

After an agonising six-week wait to see a neurologist, it was confirmed. There is no cure



'It has been completely life-changing' — Paul Whyley, who has MND, with his wife Jayne

for Motor Neurone Disease (MND) and in Paul's case his condition has rapidly declined.

"It has been completely life-changing," admits Paul. "I am wheelchair-bound. My arms have virtually stopped working. My legs have gone."

"I am like a newborn baby. I can't do anything for myself."

"It has also put us under a lot of stress, on my wife particularly, probably more than me."

Paul watched the film with his wife Jayne just four months ago, in March this year, but with hindsight believes the disease - that progressively damages parts of the nervous system leading to muscle weakness - was having an impact as early as 2012.

He had noticed a sore shoulder while carrying out his work as a blind fitter, which only got worse over time.

He says: "You just think it is old age. When

you trip you think that is why, but it is because your feet drag. The muscle in your foot starts to get weak."

"I was working in Hereford and went to cough and I couldn't. I thought 'that is odd'. I could breathe OK but my diaphragm had started to go."

Paul, from Hagley, had originally become convinced his sore shoulder was linked to cancerous mole in the same place.

Jayne said he became 'transfixed' on the belief that everything was connected with the mole, which he then had removed.

But problems flared up again in February. While out on a job Paul felt his legs suddenly give way and he returned home still confused about his ill-health.

It was soon after when Paul, Jayne and friends went to watch The Theory of Everything. Pauls admits it was not his first

choice but Jayne was fond of lead actor Eddie Redmayne, who won an Oscar for his portrayal of the young Stephen Hawking.

Since his diagnosis Paul's illness has taken a different trajectory to Hawking's, with his condition rapidly declining.

The father-of-two had been a keen pilot, taking to the skies up to twice a week from Half-penny Green Airport, near Wolverhampton.

But the debilitating disease has now made even getting out of the house difficult.

Jayne says: "I am a constant carer. Paul has to be taken to the toilet, showered and washed. I can't just think 'oh, I'll pop to the shops'."

"When I am at the shops I am constantly on the clock thinking 'I need to get back, I need to get back'. It has changed everything."

## Ventilator

Paul has a ventilator to assist his breathing through the night and takes tablets to slow the progression of the disease.

And his family and friends, including daughters Heather, 36 and Lauren, 34, and grandchildren, Isabella, eight, Rufus, three, Valentina, four, and William, six, are supporting him. They have set up a crowdfunding page to raise money for a stairlift to be installed at his home.

A summer fete was also held at Stourbridge's Greenfield Primary School to raise money to help the family.

Since Paul's incredible story of self-diagnosis came to light, his family have joked at the similarities in appearance between himself, Eddie Redmayne and Stephen Hawking.

But can the world-famous physicist act as an inspiration to others with MND? Maybe for some, but Paul recognises that he is an exceptional case.

"Unfortunately not for me," says Paul. "I might be saying the wrong thing but he is unique."

"He has had the disease 50 years, defying all the odds, and is still alive now, with the disease still progressing."

"But he is an inspirational scientist and his fame helps raise awareness of Motor Neurone Disease."

To donate to Paul's fund visit <https://crowdfunding.justgiving.com/Paul-Whyley>

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# Pitching tent in shopping centre raised awareness on struggle faced by refugees

ON Saturday, June 27, we did something I have never seen in Stourbridge before.

We pitched a tent of the sort refugee families who have lost their homes and everything they own in war and disasters would use for months, and maybe for years, as their only shelter – in the Ryemarket in Stourbridge.

It was great to see so many people step inside the tent, see all the equipment and imagine how life could be. It was a first for us as the Rotary Club of Stourbridge as well, but we were glad of the chance to raise awareness by practical means of the charity, ShelterBox, we ourselves have supported over the years. One lady even told us how just such a tent and such generosity had saved the life of her daughter in a far off country.

We were also really glad to be able to raise some money for the charity, ShelterBox, itself. The permit for the collection had been granted by Dudley MBC. The total collected was £333.84. We want to thank all those who showed such interest and gave to what might otherwise seem a far off charity and cause when there are so many pressing problems closer to home.

**JULIA SAVAGE**  
Rotary Club of Stourbridge

## Lionesses fall short of '66 heroes

YES, they did finish third but personally speaking I feel there was too much hype regarding England's performance in the recent Women's World Cup Tournament in Canada.

We had reports of a 'stunning performance', one girl was compared to the greatest footballer in the world Lionel Messi. If a pass went astray there was always an excuse. If anybody dared to say anything that was not considered praiseworthy, they were branded sexist, chauvinistic or from the Victorian era.

In the name of equality the FA are throwing money into the woman's game. This England side in Canada never wanted for anything, their back up staff would not disgrace a Premiership side – yet what we got was nothing more than a typically hardworking English side. The Lionesses of today will never emulate the Lions of Wembley 1966.

**A P CUFF**  
Stourbridge

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

Dudley Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial,  
51-53 Queen Street  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

### EMAIL

dudley.chron@  
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

## It's history and it can't be changed

I find it difficult to accept Patrick Vernon's views on historical slavery, particularly when his energy could be better used in addressing the modern version.

I must declare an interest or two. My great great great grandmother was a slave on the remote South Atlantic island of St Helena. DNA testing indicates that she may have been of Asian or Mediterranean origin. Her relationship with an Irish captain in the East India Company Regiment led eventually to me and my family.

Fast forward to my youth – I was educated via a scholarship at a West Country school which was founded on the proceeds of the slave trade. Some say that this largesse on the part of the slave trader was conscience money.

I retain links with the school via the Old Boy's Society and with many of my contemporaries.

I have no hang-ups about any of this. I'm certainly not unique. It's history, my history, and it can't be changed. Please, Mr Vernon, direct your energies towards the present and future of the inhuman slave trade.

**T RIDGE**  
Sedgley

## Chains are a reflection of heritage

DON'T confuse political correctness with misjudgement over the Black Country flag. Whilst it is true that some chains made before the 20th Century would have been used by slave owners to enslave Africans, it wasn't their only use, nor is it the chains that do the oppressing. People oppress other people. Plantation owners, slave traders and imperial capitalists all got rich out of the barbarism of slavery.

Context is important for imagery. The image of chains being broken by human hands is often associated with humans liberating themselves from some form of oppression. It is not the chains that break by themselves but humans that achieve the liberation.

A chain image can be used to symbolize linking people together in unity. Context is everything. In the Black Country flag the chain is merely a symbol of industrial heritage of the region.

**TONY BARNSLEY**  
Halesowen

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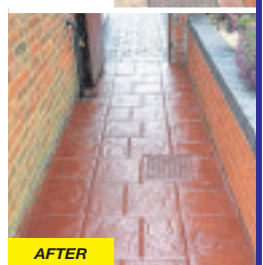
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Bruce Forsyth, Roy Castle, Ben Warris and Ken Dodd, around 1940



Son Paul Langston with a pic of his mother in the 1940s



Amy's second husband Ken Shepherd with comedy legend Tommy Cooper



The Hippodrome during its heyday in the 1950s



Amy with box office manager Mrs Smallwood

# Mixing with the stars just the ticket for Amy

SHARING a dance with Richard Attenborough was one of the perks of the job for Amy Shepherd, who rubbed shoulders with the stars during a 20-year stint at Dudley Hippodrome.

Mrs Shepherd, one of the last remaining links to the iconic venue, passed away earlier this month and her son Paul has shared some of her photographs and memorabilia from her time in the ticket office.

Mrs Shepherd left school in 1940 and after a couple of part-time jobs took up her role at the theatre in either 1941 or 1942.

She worked in the box office selling tickets – in very different fashion to the modern online booking system – requiring an encyclopaedic knowledge of the venue's layout.

"All the ticket books were different colours for different parts of the theatre," said Paul, aged 62. "You had to know every gangway, every seat, and relate that to

## MEMORY LANE

By David Cosgrove

the ticket books when people rang in."

According to Paul, his mother "saw them all" – with celebrities including Bob Hope, Julie Andrews, George Formby, Bruce Forsyth, Laurel and Hardy, and Morecambe and Wise all performing at the Hippodrome during her time there.

But experience stands out as a special memory. "She was lucky enough at one stage to dance with Richard Attenborough in the Station Hotel opposite, which is where all the stars stayed," he said.

Growing up in and around the venue at its peak was a thrilling experience for Paul and his brother Neil, 58.

"We used to go and watch all of the pantomimes," he said. "It was a magnificent place and one of the best lighted theatres in Europe."

Mrs Shepherd worked at the Hippodrome until it closed in 1965

and both her two husbands were employed at the venue. Her first marriage was to Keith Langston, Paul's father, who worked as a stage-hand at the venue and went on to be the stage manager at The Plaza in West Bromwich. He died in 1966.

She went on to marry Ken Shepherd, a former stage manager at the Hippodrome and moved to run the Victoria Hotel in Cradley Heath in 1971.

She remained at the hotel until retiring in 1992, but Mr Shepherd passed away just nine months into her retirement.

From 1993 onwards Mrs Shepherd lived in a cottage in Kingswinford and died on July 4 aged 89 after a short illness. Her funeral service took place on Tuesday at Gornal Wood Crematorium.

Mr Langston said he hoped the theatre's future would be secured and that it would be restored to its former glory.

"I know times move on but it used to be such a wonderful place," he said.



Amy Shepherd, who recently died, pictured in 1944

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# Help call to trace final branches of family tree

A FORMER head boy from the Royal Wolverhampton School has appealed for help to track down the final branches of his family tree.

Retired NHS manager Lewis Payne, aged 68, has been working on his family history since September with his sons Giles and Stuart.

While he has managed to assemble a thorough chronicle of the vast majority of his relatives, there are a handful who remain outstanding.

One of those is his great-aunt Edith Richardson, who he believes died in Wolverhampton in the 1960s.

A previous appeal in a Stoke-on-Trent newspaper helped Mr Payne find out details about two of his great-uncles – including Mrs Richardson's husband Arthur, a wood sawyer.

He also managed to flesh out what he knew about his great-uncle Roland, a baker.

## Forward

However, Mrs Richardson remains something of a mystery.

Mr Payne has been unable to work out if she and Arthur had children and is asking readers who may have known Mrs Richardson to come forward.

Mr Payne, of Norton, Stourbridge, said: "Of the 10 calls following the publication of that article in Stoke only one was about Arthur."

"It was from an 89-year-old lady who said she thought her uncle and my great-uncle had been drinking partners. But trying to trace the records of Edith Richardson has been really hard, not just for me but for a couple of genealogy experts."

"The best we've got is that she died in Wolverhampton in June 1965. She is one of only three people in the whole tree we're not absolutely sure about."

Mr Payne – who used to work in a



Lewis Payne's great grandfather



Lewis, his father and his granddad



Lewis Payne is looking for help to trace a missing branch of his family tree management role at both the Royal Hospital and New Cross – has put together a biography of each of the people featured in the family tree and after compiling such a painstaking record he is desperate to complete it.

"It would be nice to think the family could carry this forward into the future," he said. "We started doing it based on information my mother and

father had prepared in their lifetimes. "When you start doing something like this you either do it properly and thoroughly or don't do it at all."

"We've made very good progress and have found family members all around the world and they've all been extraordinarily helpful."

Anyone with information to help Mr Payne's search can call 01384 375121.

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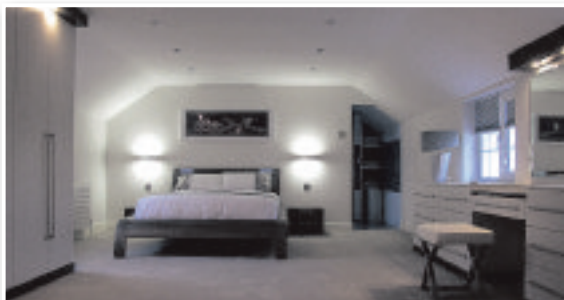
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## Family fled as fire ripped through home



Karen Hickman, Mr Hickman's sister, surveys the damage at the living room of the home in Brockmoor

A FAMILY of five, their dog and two pet tortoises had to be rescued from a fire that tore through a Brierley Hill home. Selina Adams managed to escape the property in Brockmoor with her children after being woken by neighbours. Her pets were rescued by firefighters, although one of the tortoises died. Miss Adams and her four children, Billy-Joe, six months, Trinity, two, Harley-Jack, three, and Preston, four, were sleeping in a downstairs room when the fire took hold. Her partner Kieran Hickman was out taking the couple's other children, Leigha and Ellie, to school. Fifteen firefighters tackled the blaze and fire officers were investigating the cause.

## 2016 start for quarry work

DEVELOPERS behind a plan to transform a disused quarry into a residential area hope to begin work on the site next year.

FCC Environment is targeting early 2016 to start the major scheme, which would see the Edwin Richards Quarry at Rowley Regis filled in and 281 homes built on its southern edge. The firm has been given permission

by Sandwell Council to go ahead with the project but has said issues with underground gas need to be investigated before any work can begin.

FCC has also confirmed that household waste will not be used to fill in the quarry as had been planned. Soil and non-hazardous materials will instead go into the ground. The scheme could take up to 30 years to complete but it is hoped the homes could be completed during the next decade.

Rowley Regis councillor Chris Tranter said he supported plans to develop the quarry, as the area needed affordable homes, but raised concerns about the impact of lorries travelling to the site.

He added: "We did have our fears allayed somewhat at the latest public consultation but I have still got reservations. The amount of lorries coming to and from the site is going to have an effect."

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# Dolphin therapy hope to aid Elle Mae recovery

A WOLVERHAMPTON pupil who suffered a brain haemorrhage in 2013 is working with dolphins in Florida to help with her recovery.

Elle-Mae-Davidson, who was 16 when she suffered the life changing haemorrhage, is undertaking Dolphin Therapy for two weeks at the Dolphin Rehab Centre in Key Largo, Florida Keys.

Miss Davidson's family have been wanting to take their daughter to the centre for a long time and it was with the support of Blakelands Country House, near Wombourne, and the charity Promise Dreams, that the family have been able to make their daughter's dreams come true.

Leah Davidson, Miss Davidson's Mum, said: "We want to thank everyone who has made this trip possible and share with them the joy it has brought Elle."

## Remember

"So far we have taken Elle to see the Lion King show which she really responded to and have done lots of sensory things, to try to get her to remember things. We are really looking forward to seeing how she responds to the therapies."

Miss Davidson, of Kingswinford, a former Wolverhampton Girls High student, was a happy and healthy 16-year-old when she collapsed in January 2013.

Over the next weeks she underwent several major brain operations and was given no chance of survival and fought for her life coming close to losing it six times. She spent five weeks in critical care, seven months in high dependency and 16 months in rehab.

Mrs Davidson added: "We are extremely grateful to Paul and his team at Blakelands for hosting the charity



Elle Mae gets to know the dolphin which it is hoped will aid her recovery



Nearer still as Elle Mae gets really close to the dolphin

afternoon tea. We raised £750 from selling tickets and it was lovely for Elle to spend an afternoon out with her friends, in such a beautiful setting."

Wolverhampton-based children's charity, Promise Dreams, also kindly donated £2,000 towards Elle's trip.

Family and friends, affectionately known as 'Elle's Angels', have also been fundraising, in order to help

Elle's parents give her as many opportunities as possible to get better.

The family will also be holding another fundraising event on September 4. The 'Angels and Dreams Ball' will be held at the Park Hall Hotel in Wolverhampton. Tickets cost £45 and include a three-course meal; live music and bacon sandwiches at midnight. To book tickets call 07967 123430.

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## Kari's not-so-little pony show stirrups nostalgia

MANY young girls spent hours playing with My Little Pony figurines while growing up in the 1980s and 90s.

Now one avid Black Country collector is putting her beloved collection on display.

Kari Moodie, from Kingswinford, has been collecting the pastel coloured ponies since 1982 and now has around 2,500. She has put all her ponies on display at Dudley Museum and Art Gallery in the largest exhibition of its kind to be staged in the UK.

The exhibition, running throughout the summer, will see Miss Moodie's rarities – thought to be worth thousands of pounds – on display after being brought out of storage.

The 39-year-old, a keeper of glass and fine art at Kingswinford's Broadfield House Glass Museum, spoke of the happiness her collection has brought her and how it all stemmed from seeing a magazine advert at the age of six.

### Santa

She said: "I was a collector right from the start. I remember seeing an advert in a magazine coming up to Christmas and asking Santa for them."

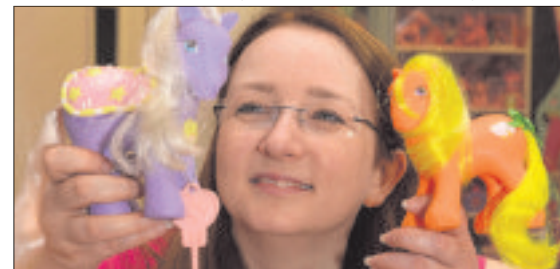
"That was it – every Christmas, every birthday, they were the main present. I always loved ponies as a little girl but never got (a real) one so I think I was making up for it."

Miss Moodie's collection ranges from the smallest, at less than an inch tall, to the largest at 3ft tall, as well as books, bags, bed linen and other merchandise. It includes ponies of every generation from the original 'My Pretty Pony' to the 'Equestria Girls' dolls of today.

Collectors and fans will be particularly interested in the rare mail order ponies, prototypes and collectors' editions she has acquired.



Massed ranks of My Little Pony figures as Kari Moodie's collection goes on display



Kari Moodie with a couple of her favourites from her My Little Ponies exhibition

Miss Moodie continued: "The special ones I have are the ones from around the world. I've got ones from Argentina, Holland and Brazil, to name but a few."

"I guess you would say the rarest is the pony in the egg – which was specially released for Easter in Greece. It was selling for £1,000 at one point but I didn't pay that much for it."

"I keep a spreadsheet with the ones I have got and the ones that I still need. My favourite will always be my first green little pony – it was the one that started it all off."

The exhibition will run until October 31 at Dudley Museum & Art Gallery, in St James' Road. Admission is free. The museum is closed Sundays and Bank Holidays.

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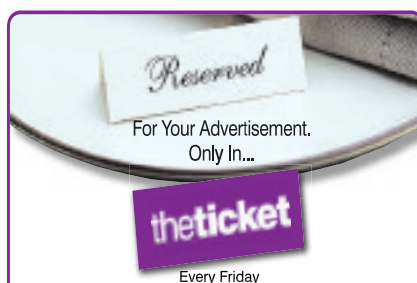


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# Village school pupils were in the running for medals

A MARATHON record holder presented Kinvor school runners with medals after they completed a fitness challenge.

Amy Hughes, who ran 53 marathons in 53 days last year, presented pupils with medals after they collectively ran the distance of a marathon.

Pupils from Brindley Heath Junior and Kinvor High School took part in the challenge, set up by the Kinvor Fitness Collective, with the ambition of becoming one of the fittest villages in South Staffordshire.

Miss Hughes, 26, who completed her 53 marathons in aid of a friend's daughter who was diagnosed with a brain tumour, said: "It is really amazing what the kids have achieved here in Kinvor. They have all been so great. It embodies all I wanted to achieve."

"It has been an absolute pleasure presenting the pupils with their medals for such a tremendous achievement. I hope they all keep going staying fit and healthy."

Nearly 100 pupils have achieved a marathon with the rest achieving a 5km, 10km run or a half marathon.

### Imagination

Awards were presented to the first two pupils over the marathon line from each of the schools, with medals for every pupil taking part.

Jason Willetts, headteacher of Brindley Heath Junior, said: "The challenge has clearly captured the children's imagination."

The Kinvor Fitness Collective, established just under a year ago by volunteers, aims to help people get fit for free. It has a Facebook page.



Mega-marathon woman Amy Hughes, centre, with pupils and Kinvor Fitness Collective supporters

# One in six police officers want to quit

ONE in six police officers is planning to leave the service in the next two years, a survey indicates.

Almost 16 per cent of respondents in the poll of more than 30,000 officers admitted they intend to depart their roles. Seven per cent questioned plan to leave the service within the next two years, while 8.6 per cent are already looking for a new career.

The proportion was a slight increase on the same poll last year, when 14.6 per cent said they intend to leave.

The Police Federation of England and Wales, which conducted the research, seized on its findings as evidence of the poor state of morale across the police force.

Other findings from the poll include just under one in two intend to stay in the force until pension age; more than 95 per cent of those who are planning to leave cited 'how the police as a whole are treated' as having an effect on their decision, while a similar proportion said their morale was a factor.

Overall 70.2 per cent of officers said morale was low, compared to 59.1 per cent in 2014, although nearly six in 10 said they feel proud to be in the police.

# Sport and music boost law firm's charity total

STAFF at law firm Higgs & Sons were pitch perfect in their support for charity as two very different events helped raise almost £6,000 for a good cause.

More than 350 professionals from businesses took part in the firm's annual charity football tournament at Stourbridge Rugby Club on June 25.

That evening, the Higgs & Sons choir took part in a national singing competition at Southwark Cathedral in London.

The six-a-side football tournament featured 40 teams from across the region and raised more than £3,800 for the Brierley Hill-based firm's designated charity, The Alzheimer's Society.

"We were thrilled that so many teams from local businesses and professional organisations got involved once again this year," said partner, Richard Griffiths.

"With the appearance of three former Wolves players, this year's competition was even bigger and better than ever."

Former Wolves players Mel Eves, Dale Rudge and Jody Craddock turned out for Wolverhampton recruitment company, First4Staff in support of Breakthrough Breast Cancer.



All Star — Jody Craddock

choir recognised in this way really does reflect the talent and commitment of the entire Higgs' staff team," said partner Tim Jones, co-ordinator of the firm's highly successful Corporate Social Responsibility programme.

Ray Nash, senior regional corporate fundraising executive at the Alzheimer's Society, said: "It's fantastic that Higgs and Sons are supporting Alzheimer's Society as their charity of the year. Through our network of local services, we touch the lives of over 30,000 people every week, providing practical services and support for people with dementia and their carers. These two events were fantastic and a big thank you goes out to all those involved."

Former Wolves' players Mel, Dale and Jody will also be part of the Wolves All Stars team taking part in the firm's next big fundraising event. The Higgs & Sons Family Fun Day on September 20 will see a Higgs Select XI take on the Wolves All Stars at Stourbridge FC.

# Fire risk from hoarding

CREATIVE Support has teamed up with the West Midlands Fire Service to run an event warning about the dangers of hoarding in the home.

There will be a demonstration of how quickly a fire can spread due to clutter, as part of the event at Brierley Hill Fire Station in Dudley Road, tomorrow (Friday) from noon to 2pm.

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# 14 Road closed by crash gas leak

Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, July 23, 2015

A CAR that crashed into the front of a house caused a gas leak that saw an entire road closed off over safety concerns. Firefighters closed off New Street in Quarry Bank on July 11 after a domestic gas pipe was broken in the crash. Police have launched an investigation after the driver fled the scene in the vehicle.

## Fractured

Brierly Hill crew commander David Owen of West Midlands Fire Service said: "The pipe had become dislodged and fractured. "We put a cordon around to stop anyone walking past with a cigarette or anything that would ignite. Fortunately the gas was displacing quite well and we remained on scene until the gas engineers arrived to stop the leak and fix the pipe."

# Funding for children across West Midlands is cut by £350m

**GOVERNMENT funding to support youngsters in the West Midlands has been cut by more than £350 million in the last five years.**

Services including child welfare, social care and children's services have been reduced by 56 per cent since 2010 with authorities across the Black Country among the hardest hit, according to research.

The figures were revealed following an investigation by The Children's Society and the National Children's Bureau (NCB).

The four Black Country authorities all saw a 58 per cent reduction in funding over the period. In Wolverhampton the figure dropped from £19.5m to £8.2m, while Walsall saw an overall funding cut of £12.7m. Dudley's funding dropped by £10.6m and in Sandwell it fell from £26.6m to £11.2m, a drop of £15.4m. In Staffordshire funding was down from £38.7m to £18.7m.

In the West Midlands funding for early help fell by £356m. This early intervention funding is used by councils to run children's centres and offer services on teen pregnancy, drugs and alcohol misuse.

The report says that despite the efforts of many councils to cushion the blow by securing resources from elsewhere, spending on children's centres and young people's and family support services has still fallen by almost a quarter over five years, from £3bn in 2010-11 to £2.3bn in 2014-15.

Anna Feuchtwang, chief executive of NCB, said: "It is positive that councils have done their best to protect services but there is no getting away from the fact that they have also had to make significant cuts which will impact on the lives of vulnerable children."

# Jobs bounce in on trampolines

AN indoor trampoline park will open in Stourbridge, creating 15 jobs, after plans were approved

Proposals for the complex, earmarked for a unit on the Stourbridge Estate on Mill Race Lane have been given the go-ahead by Dudley Council.

There will be connected trampolines, covering an area measuring 5,381 sq ft, as well as a foam pit area. There will also be a training trampoline complete with harness and a basketball slam dunk zone for youngsters too.

The plans also include a viewing area and café bar.

The centre would be open seven days a week under the proposals lodged by L & C Commercial Ltd.

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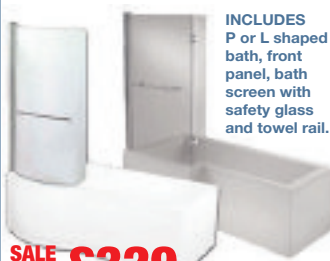


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## Arun glides to gold success



Former Stourbridge student Arun Kundi has achieved the Gold Duke of Edinburgh award

A YOUNG cadet and keen glider from a Stourbridge school has achieved the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Arun Kundi, aged 18, from Penn, travelled to London to receive his certificate from the Earl of Wessex.

He said: "DofE had quite an impact on my life at secondary school, it allowed me develop all my skills at a young age. The experience has allowed me to volunteer in coaching younger cadets and is continuing to inspire me with my gliding."

Arun attended Oldswinford Hospital School, where he also completed both his Bronze and Silver DofE Awards.

He worked through the five sections of his DofE during Year 12 to achieve the gold award. Activities he participated in included coaching younger cadets at Old Swinford Hospital's Combined Cadet Force, where

he was able to improve leadership skills and gain the rank of cadet warrant officer.

For the gold residential section, he attended a gliding course held over 10 days at RNAS Predannack, in Cornwall, where he was given the opportunity to learn how to fly a glider and was then able to glide solo, achieving his Silver Wings.

It was said that throughout his DofE, Arun was able to prove himself as a great team member and a clear leader. This was further shown as Arun went on to become a school prefect in Year 13.

His award helped him to get into Royal Holloway, University of London, to study Mathematics and Computer Science. Arun added: "I'm very proud to have achieved this award, I even got to meet Professor Simon Cox which was a very pleasant surprise as he presented me with my award."

## 2016 start date for work on quarry site

DEVELOPERS behind a plan to transform a disused quarry into a residential area hope to begin work on the site next year.

FCC Environment is targeting early 2016 to start the major scheme, which would see the Edwin Richards Quarry at Rowley Regis filled in and 281 homes built on its southern edge.

The firm has been given permission by Sandwell Council to go ahead with the project but has said issues with underground gas need to be investigated before any work can begin.

FCC has also confirmed that household waste will not be used to fill in the quarry as had been planned. Soil and non-hazardous materials will instead go into the ground.

The whole scheme could take up to 30 years to complete but it is hoped the homes could be completed during the next decade.

## Antiques fair at NEC

A FOUR-DAY summer antiques fair is being held at the Birmingham National Exhibition Centre from today (Thursday).

Antiques for Everyone will run in halls 18 and 19 until Sunday, July 26.

Celebrating its 30th year, Antiques for Everyone is the UK's largest antiques, interiors and collectables fair, held three times a year at the NEC. Around 200 specialist dealers take part.

For more information on the event visit [www.antiquesforeveryone.co.uk](http://www.antiquesforeveryone.co.uk)

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## places to visit

### Exploring the castle grounds

Worcestershire's Hartlebury Castle is a perfect family day out this summer. From theatre shows to exploring the castle grounds there is something to suit everyone.

From this Sunday until August 2, families can take the trail around the castle, discovering the secrets of the

past, the buildings and battlements that once stood on the ground.

As part of the National Festival of Archaeology, the castle has joined forces with the Country Museum to develop an exciting trail allowing visitors to explore the castle grounds through evidence and documented history of the castle.

The castle is also holding outdoor theatre events. On July 30, families are invited to take along a picnic and join the castle for an afternoon of laughter as Heartbreak Productions brings its version of David Walliams' children's book Mr Stink, live to the stage. Visit hartleburycastletrust.org

### It's a classic day for all

**JOURNEY** through the pretty scenery of the Midlands with **Severn Valley Railway**.

This full-sized standard-gauge railway line takes ticket holders on a stunning 16-mile journey between Kidderminster and Bridgnorth.

Mainly steam-hauled, it operates daily throughout the summer, during all local school holidays and most week-ends of the year.

This summer is packed full of events and makes for a fantastic family day out. From Ladies Day's to Classic Vehicle Day's, there is something for everyone to enjoy.

Evening Scenic Specials is just one of the many events that the railway is holding this summer.

Departing from the Kidderminster station, ticket holders will climb aboard one of the railway's stunning steam-hauled trains to depart on a leisurely 70-minute journey to Bridgnorth and back.

As well as enjoying the breathtaking countryside views, at an additional price ticket holders can also indulge in a fish and chip supper.

This can be washed down with a glass or two of one of the railway's cask ales, available in The Railwayman's Arms, on the Bridgnorth platform.



Severn Valley Railway is popular with visitors of all ages

For ticket holders who fancy a closer insight into what goes on throughout the year to keep the railway running smoothly, a behind the scenes tour is the perfect opportunity.

This Peep Behind the Scenes Tour allows ticket holders to see the skilled restoration and maintenance work carried out by the railway's dedicated volunteers.

Ticket holders also get a sneak peek at the railway's latest project. Tucked away in the corner of the Bewdley yard is the restoration site for GW Large Prairie Tank No. 4150.

This ex-Stourbridge and Severn Tun-

nel Junction engine is the only loco on the railway which has yet to be steamed in preservation, a determined effort is under way to get it back up and running.

The rRailway is also celebrating its 50th Birthday this year and heading back to the swinging '60s at its Kidderminster station.

The Sound of the '60s weekend is running from Friday, August 14, until Saturday, August 15, packed with fashion stalls, vintage vehicles and memorabilia. For further information including event dates, timetables and ticket prices visit www.svr.co.uk

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# Creatures great and small amaze visitors

## WEST Midlands Safari Park, Bewdley, helps its visitors discover their wild side.

Visitors to the park this summer can embark on their very own safari adventure, getting up close and personal with some of the world's fastest, tallest and cutest animals.

The park's four-mile drive-through safari allows ticket holders to experience some real close encounters.

Journey through the African Plains, home of the White Rhino's and giraffes.

Not to mention it is also the home of zebras, waterbucks, Congo buffaloes, ostriches and the elands – largest of all antelope species.

Next up, cross the border into Wild Asia. Contrasting from the enormous Asian water buffalo to the great sambar deer.

Ticket holders can also see the endangered barasingha and of course the one horned rhino.

The carnivores section is one of the most popular on the safari tour.

Home to some of the world's most powerful hunters, it is an experience like no other as visitors come face to face with tigers, cheetahs, African wild dogs and the African lion.

Of course a safari tour would not be complete without elephants!

Elephant Valley is home to the park's little treasure, Sutton. He can be seen most days charging around the valley with his mother Five and Auntie Latabe.

Ticket holders can then head to the Discovery Trail and African Village to encounter more animals and reptiles.

Discovery Trail is home to the park's penguins, sea lions, reptiles and creepy crawlies.

Not forgetting one of the park's newest attractions Lorieket Land, allowing visitors to walk amongst the UK's largest flock of lorikeets.

The African Village is home to some of the park's cutest animals.

Its walk-through area allows visitors to feed the park's friendly Somali sheep, pygmy goats and Cameroon sheep. It is also home to the park's meerkats and the lemurs.

Land of the Living Dinosaurs is the park's newest attraction, allowing ticket holders to come face to face with the Cretaceous, Jurassic, Triassic and Permian species.

At an extra cost to general admission visitors can also experience the thrills of the park's theme park.

For further information and ticket prices visit [www.wmsp.co.uk](http://www.wmsp.co.uk)



Enjoy a wild time at West Midlands Safari Park, Bewdley, where animals roam free

## Unwind via a winding path

Bodenham Arboretum is a stunning day out for all the family. With more than 3,000 species of trees and shrubs, landscaped over 156 acres of Worcestershire countryside, it is a family day out with a difference.

The award-winning arboretum has five miles of winding paths that lead visitors through gorgeous dells, around lakes and pools. Not to mention it is also joined to a working farm that is a great experience for visitors young and old.

Visitors can see a variety of animals including Herefordshire cows, free-range poultry and young pigs.

After taking a wander around the gardens visitors can make their way to the visitor centre where there is a gift shop. Visitors who fancy a bite to eat can bring along a picnic or head to the arboretum's restaurant.

Summer is one of the most beautiful times of the year to visit Bodenham Arboretum. Escape the madness of busy roads, journey across wooden bridges, take in the picturesque views and spot the wildlife that inhabits the surroundings. Parents can sit back and relax while their children explore a number of the big pools, such as Giants' Island.

Seats in the arboretum also provide extensive views to the Clent Hills and breathtaking countryside.

## Medieval fun

Journey back to the medieval and Elizabethan times at Kidderminster's Harvington Hall.

Throughout the summer visitors to the manor-house can experience life as it was in the Medieval and Elizabethan periods. The stunning moated manor-house still has many of its Elizabethan wall-paintings and the hall contains some of the finest series of priest hides in the country.

Visitors to the hall can learn about its history through guided tours and interact with the volunteers who bring the house back to life.

Events taking place include an afternoon of Elizabethan dancing in the gardens and a multi-period living history event.

The living history event is the perfect opportunity for visitors to the home to get a real taste of the medieval lifestyle.

Visitors can find out all about preparing for medieval conflict right up to the 20th century, as well as watching a number of displays including archery, cooking and making music.

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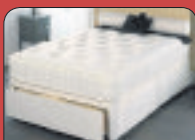
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## places to visit

# Holiday fun at County Museum this August

**WORCESTERSHIRE** County Museum at Hartlebury Castle is rolling out an inexpensive calendar of fun for the whole family this summer holiday – ideal for those looking to entertain their kids and preserve their pennies.

Three different children's craft activities will take place every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday in August, from 10.30am-4pm.

Just a few examples of the craft activities on offer include:

**Week 1** – (from August 4)

Dinosaurs and Monsters week including stegosaurus masks, snake mobiles, stick puppets and clay modelling

**Week 2** – (from August 11)

Animals week including animal headbands, seahorse snappers, origami and brass rubbings

**Week 3** – (from August 18)

History week including Egyptian amulets, Aztec masks, Viking runes and Roman arenas

**Week 4** – (from August 25)

Pirate week including skull and crossbones flags, treasure maps, pirate hats and buccaneer bookmarks

Activity weeks are great value costing just £2 per child for a whole day's worth of activities after the normal admission fee (which is just £13 for a family ticket).

On each Tuesday & Wednesday of August there will also be a chance to join in the have-a-go archery in the Castle's Carriage Circle (small addi-



*Max and Lois Webster from Pedmore making clay models*

tional cost). And of course there is over 1,000 years of history to explore within the museum and a fun family trail to lead you round.

You may be wondering why the last week explores the theme of pirates – well that's because we are rounding off the summer with a special pirate themed day on the Bank Holiday (Monday, August 31).

'Pirate School' will be a great day out where families can go and meet

Captain Sharkbreath and his crew and learn how to be a pirate on the good ship Hartlebury.

Lessons include reading treasure maps, making pirate flags, jobs aboard ship, singing sea-shanties, cannon drill and how to talk 'pirate'!

For more information call 01299 250416

A full timetable detailing each day's activities is available at the website [www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk](http://www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk)

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# Clearly creative look at heritage of glass industry

**THE Red House Glass Cone is at the heart of the Stourbridge's glass making heritage and has varied events on throughout the summer.**

On High Street, Wordsley, The Red House Glass Cone was built at the end of the 18th century and was used for the manufacture of glass until 1936.

Reaching 100 feet, glass cones were once commonplace in the Stourbridge area. Today, it is the only complete glass cone in the area and one of only four left in the UK.

With the aid of film, audio guides, exhibits and live demonstrations, visitors can now explore the cone's 200 years of glass making history.

Glass blowing demonstrations take place every day during the summer holidays, between 12 noon and 3pm.

This weekend, July 25 and 26, the cone hosts a 1940s weekend with costumed re-enactors, military Vehicles, war years sing-a-long, glass making demonstrations and open studios. The events will take place from 10am to 4pm and admission is free.

Sarah Jones, a lampwork glass artist, specialises in bespoke handmade glass beads. All of Sarah's beads are hand crafted in her studio at the Red House Glass Cone, where you can watch her working. The studio is open Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 4pm.

Jane Ellis is a fused glass artist working from Studio 7. She has been working with glass for eight years. First starting with stained glass, she then moving to fusing or kiln formed glass.



The Red House Glass Cone and visitor centre in Wordsley, Stourbridge

Jane's work can be seen in her studio.

Admission is also free at Broadfield House Glass Museum nearby in Compton Drive, Kingswinford, with an impressive collection of glass artefacts. It is open from noon to 4pm Tuesday to Sunday, with its Hot Glass Studio open from Wednesday to Sunday, noon to 4pm.

Today (Thursday) the glass museum is hosting a teddy bears picnic as part of an under-fives day. It will run from noon until 4pm and families can bring

along their favourite picnic treats and blankets to enjoy lunch in the grounds of the glass museum.

Youngsters can take part in storytelling sessions and craft activities as well as watching glass making demonstration.

Laser Quest, at The Warehouse, High Street, Stourbridge, will be bringing back their KAOS Kids Club for the summer holidays. It is £9 per online booking, see [lasergames.co.uk/kaos/](http://lasergames.co.uk/kaos/) for details.



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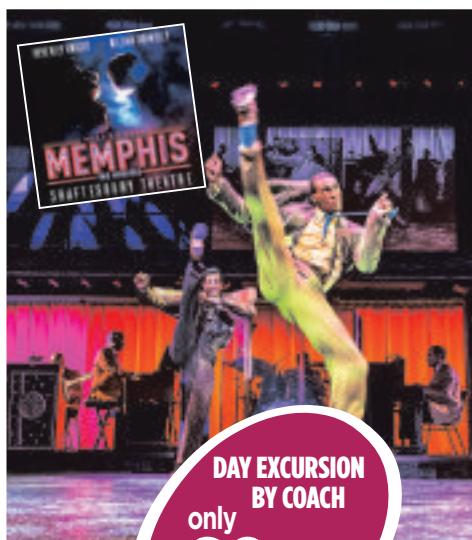


## MEMPHIS *the Musical*

Starring the Queen of British Soul, multi-award-winning recording artist Beverley Knight. The show is set in the turbulent south in the 1950s. Memphis is the story of Huey Calhoun, a white radio DJ whose love of good music transcends race lines and airwaves. Thanks in part to his passionate persistence, "race" music reaches the centre of the radio dial, quickly exploding throughout mainstream America. But when Huey falls for a beautiful black singer he has set on the path to stardom, whether the world is really ready for this music, and their love, is put to the test.

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## places to visit

# Big Beano Takeover at the Merry Hill centre

**THE Big Beano Takeover event is landing at the intu Merry Hill Shopping Centre.**

A range of events will be taking place to keep your little minxes and menaces happy all summer long until August 27. Children can play, create and be mischievous all for free in Dennis the Menace's backyard on the Lower Mall near River Island.

On Minecraft Mondays (July 27, August 3 and 10) from 11am to 4pm at the Lower mall near River Island young visitors can go Minecraft mad with free Big Beano Battle Days.

Bring the little Minecraft menaces along to design their best Beano builds and put their mining skills to the test as they battle it out in the live Minecraft stations.

Big Beano Minecraft Mondays are free and available on a first come first service basis, with prizes on offer for the best designs and the summer's best build.

Youngsters can visit The Big Beano Drive-in Movie on Tuesday, July 28, on Wednesday, August 5, and Wednesday, August 12 from 11am to 4pm.

They can take a seat in one of the giant, customisable cardboard cars and get ready to watch the Dennis the Menace movie on big screen TV.

There will also be a free Beacon mobile for kids to make and take home.

There will be Gnasher mask making on Wednesday, July 29, with the chance to have your picture taken in the kennel photobooth.

Beano-tastic face painting and tat-



*Lots of Beano comic inspired events will be held at intu Merry Hill*

too time will be held on Tuesday, August 4, and Gnasher's Crazy Kennel Design Class on August 11.

One of the highlights will be Dennis the Menace Day on August 13 when Dennis himself will be dropping by to help into Merry Hill throw a big Beano bash!

Get stuck in from 10am with the free Beano craft-noon carrying on until 4pm with live music jamming sessions and mini music lessons from The Music Store plus the chance to win Den-

nis the Menace musical equipment throughout the day.

Meanwhile, during Big Balloon Thursdays the Quest team will be out and about at intu Merry Hill making free crazy balloons for kids. Go along and visit their fun station on the Upper Mall near Eat Central from 11am to 4pm.

See the website [intu.co.uk/merry-hill/events/the-big-beano-takeover](http://intu.co.uk/merry-hill/events/the-big-beano-takeover) for more information about the Big Beano Takeover.

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# Fun-packed line-up of activities at country park

## SHROPSHIRE Council rangers are gearing up for a busy, fun-filled summer holiday in the Severn Valley.

This year the Severn Valley Country Park at Alveley has a number of exciting activities for the children to enjoy over the summer holidays.

The regular Wednesday events which started this week will continue with lots of different themes including Minions, Vikings, superheroes, record-breaking, space and dinosaurs.

Each Friday rangers will be leading nature and wildlife sessions.

These sessions will rotate between pond-dipping and mini-beast hunting.

They are a great way to learn about the different habitats within the park and the many creatures that live in them.

Each day of the holidays, a self-led trail will be available from the visitor centre between 11am-4pm.

Families can follow the clues around the park to help find favourite storybook characters.

There will also be some fabulous outdoor entertainment during August.

Local company, Salvage Cinema will be bringing Hollywood to the park when they screen two classic films.

Mamma Mia! The Movie will be shown on Friday, August 7 and Back to the Future on Saturday, August 8.

Rain or Shine Theatre Company will be returning to the Severn Valley on Friday, August 14, as part of their national tour with William Shakespeare's The Tempest.

Rangers are inviting visitors to bring a picnic and low-backed chairs to add to their enjoyment.

During the holidays the teashop and visitor centre will be open seven days a week from 11am to 5pm. The teashop offers ice creams, hot and cold drinks, sandwiches and light snacks. For more information or to book places on all our events, call 01746 781192. All children's events cost £3.50 per child. Wednesday events are 10am-12pm & 1.30pm-3.30pm, Friday events are 11am-12.30pm & 2pm-3.30pm.



Children can learn about tiny creatures as part of Severn Valley Country Park's programme of activities

## Displays and stunts at show

One of the country's best-known agricultural shows promises fun for all the family.

The Burwarton Show, which takes place at Cleobury North, near Bridgnorth, on Thursday, August 6, will be packed with events and activities inside and outside of the main ring.

Highlights of the show include a sheepdog display with Bob Hogg and a stunt-filled display by the the Royal Signals Motorcycle Display Team.

Visitors are sure to flock to the ever-popular sheep-shearing competition which includes Junior, Intermediate, Senior and Veterans classes.

Children's entertainment will feature throughout the day and will include performances by magician Magic Russ and Jack the Jester.

There will also be a chance to see vintage tractors, engines and farmyard machinery, as well as livestock in a range of classes.

Advance tickets for this year's show are still available from sales outlets across Shropshire and Staffordshire and also by phone on 01746 787535. For more information visit [www.burwartonshow.co.uk](http://www.burwartonshow.co.uk)

## Tasty treats for food fans

About 80 exhibitors from all over the West Midlands will be tempting visitors with fresh, local produce at this weekend's Cosford Food Festival.

The annual event returns for a two days on Saturday and Sunday at the RAF Museum.

As well as food stalls, there will be live cookery demonstrations and talks given by local chefs and food producers. There will also be live music from Anthony Doyle and Rebecca Grace with JC Jazz.

Meanwhile, children can pick up cookery skills thanks to a series of workshops called Kidz Kitchens. Admission prices on the gate are £5 for adults, £4 for seniors and £2 for children aged 5-15. Family tickets (two adults with up to four children) cost £12.00. For more information go to [www.rafmuseum.org.uk](http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk)

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# places to visit

## Event explores life for Victorian youngsters

**DISCOVER** more about how Victorian children spent their leisure time at the new Victorian childhood family event at Blists Hill Victorian Town, near Ironbridge, between Tuesday, August 18, and Sunday, August 23.

Some of the shops and houses will be transformed to emulate favourite children's stories from the 1900s.

Follow the trail to meet Gepetto at the sawmill, the shoemaker who created Pinocchio in the 1883 novel, and the wicked witch who tricked Hansel and Gretel, as well as characters from other childhood classics.

### Must-see

Lots of activities will also be taking place on the Green. There will be traditional children's games each day such as musical chairs, sack races, hoops and skipping.

The Prince Albert Players will also be performing the classic tale of Little Red Riding Hood – a definite must-see for all the family.

For the first time at Blists Hill, visitors can meet the popular creator of the much-loved Katie series of stories, James Mayhew.

James, a writer and illustrator, will be on site as a traditional 'plein air' Victorian artist and will be creating artworks inspired by the streets and buildings of the town.

Blists Hill Victorian Town is one of the 10 Ironbridge Gorge Museums, which collectively won a gold award in the Large Visitor Attraction of the Year category at the prestigious VisitEngland Awards for Excellence 2015.

### Unlimited

The museum is open 10am to 5pm. A great value annual passport ticket allowing unlimited entry into all 10 Ironbridge Gorge Museums costs £27.95 per adult, £21.50 for seniors, £16.95 for children under 18, £68 for a family of two adults and all their children and £50 for a family with one adult; under-fives free (terms and conditions apply).

Passports can also be bought online in advance, saving 10 per cent, and individual entry tickets are available at each museum.

Activities and workshops at the attraction vary each day and some carry an extra charge.

For further information, contact the Ironbridge Tourist Information Centre on 01952 433 424 or visit [www.ironbridge.org.uk](http://www.ironbridge.org.uk)

**Visitors will see how Victorian children spent their leisure time**



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# fast the ticket

## Zulu beats meet ballet

Inala preview – Page 25



### Blues queen

Joanne Shaw Taylor –  
Page 25



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**Culture Dub Orchestra & Kalillo African Drum Workshop**  
 Sun at 4pm, Free  
 Light House, Wolverhampton,  
 WV1 1HT. Call 01902 716055

**Ed Sheeran: The Ed Sheeran Experience Tribute**  
 Thu at 8.45pm, £5  
 The River Rooms, Stourbridge,  
 DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397177

**The Sonics**  
 Tue at 7pm - 11pm, £20  
 The Institute, Digbeth,  
 Birmingham, B5 6DY.  
 Call 0121 643 0428

**Voodoo**  
 Sat at 12am, Free  
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge,  
 DY8 3TB.  
 Call 01384 374410

**Blood Youth**  
 Sat at 7pm, £5  
 Wolverhampton Slade Rooms,  
 WV1 1RQ.  
 Call 0870 320 7000

**Desperado: The Eagles Tribute**  
 Sat at 8pm, £15 - £17.50  
 Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.  
 Call 01527 577330

**Soulfly**  
 Mon at 7pm, £16  
 O2 Academy Birmingham,  
 B1 1DB.  
 Call 0121 622 8250

**The Springsteen Sessions**  
 Sunday at 8.30pm  
 £10/£12  
 The Robin 2, Bilston,  
 WV14 7LJ.  
 Call 01902 401211

**Guns 2 Roses**  
 Thursday at 8pm  
 £8/£10  
 The Robin 2, Bilston,  
 WV14 7LJ.  
 Call 01902 401211

**Colleen Green**  
 Sun at 7.30pm, £8  
 The Sunflower Lounge,  
 Birmingham, B5 4EG.  
 Call 0121 632 6756

## FOLK & ACOUSTIC

**Otis Gibbs Plus Eleanor Dattani**  
 Wed at 7.30pm - 10.30pm, £9  
 Kitchen Garden Cafe,  
 Birmingham, B14 7SA.  
 Call 0121 443 4725

**The Paperboys**  
 Sun at 7.30pm - 11pm, £14  
 Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.  
 Call 01527 577330

**Irish Music Session**  
 Wed at 12am,  
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge,  
 DY8 3TB. Call 01384 374410

**Sandpiper Folk Club Night**  
 Wed at 7.45pm,  
 Pigot Arms, 11 High Street,  
 Pittingham,  
 Wolverhampton, WV6 7BQ.  
 Call 01902 700207

**Common Folk: Singers' Night**  
 Thu at 8.30pm,  
 Pelsall Cricket & Sports Club,  
 Walsall Road, Walsall,  
 WS3 4BP.  
 Call 01922 682018

**Brewood Acoustic Club**  
 Thu at 8pm,  
 Brewood Cricket Club, Four  
 Ashes Road, Brewood,  
 ST19 9HX.  
 Call 01902 850422

**Country Music Nights**  
 Sun at 8.15pm, £2  
 Swan With Two Necks,  
 Longdon, WS15 4PN.  
 Call 01543 491570

## JAZZ & BLUES

**Sorana Santos**  
 Fri at 5pm,  
 Symphony Hall, Cafe Bar  
 Birmingham, B1 2EA.  
 Call 0121 780 3333

**Joanne Shaw Taylor**  
 Saturday, 8.30pm  
 £17.50/ £19.50  
 The Robin 2, Bilston,  
 WV14 7LJ.  
 Call 01902 401211

## OTHER MUSIC

**Hum Kalaam**  
 Sun at 7.30pm, £10 - £12  
 mac, Cannon Hill Road,  
 Birmingham, B12 9QH.  
 Call 0121 446 3232

**Karen Carpenter Tribute**  
 Sat at 7.30pm, £17.50  
 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,  
 WV1 1DE.  
 Call 01902 573320

**Shaam E Tarannum**  
 Sat at 6.30pm, £12.50  
 mac, Cannon Hill Road,  
 Birmingham, B12 9QH.  
 Call 0121 446 3232

**The American Standard Tour**  
 Wed at 6.30pm, Free  
 The Flapper, Kingston Row,  
 Birmingham, B1 2NU.  
 Call 0121 236 2421

**CBSO Youth Orchestra Academy**  
 Sunday at 7pm, £20  
 Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.  
 Call 0121 780 3333

## THEATRE

**Inala**  
 Mon, Tue, Wed at 7.30pm  
 £22.90 - £42.40  
 New Alexandra Theatre,  
 Birmingham,  
 B5 4DS.  
 Call 0844 871 3011

**The Pretty Things Peepshow**  
 Wed at 8pm  
 £12.50/£15  
 The Robin 2, Bilston,  
 WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

**Polly And The Pirates (Over 12s)**  
 Mon at 7.30pm, £5 - £6.50  
 mac, Cannon Hill Road,  
 Birmingham, B12 9QH.  
 Call 0121 446 3232

**The National Dance Company Of Ireland: Rhythm Of The Dance**  
 Sat at 7.30pm, £24  
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.  
 Call 01543 412121

**Sonia Sabri Company: Lok Virsa**  
 Sun at 12pm - 10pm, Free  
 mac, Cannon Hill Road,  
 Birmingham, B12 9QH.  
 Call 0121 446 3232

**Birmingham Fest : Extreme**  
 Fri at 9pm - 10.30pm, £8  
 Blue Orange Theatre,  
 Birmingham, B18 6AD.  
 Call 0121 212 2643

**Dr Seuss's The Cat In The Hat (Over 3s)**  
 Mon at 1pm, 3pm, Tue at 11am,  
 1pm, £8 - £12.50  
 Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.  
 Call 01527 577330

**Aliens Love Underpants**  
 Fri at 11am, £12.50  
 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,  
 WV1 1DE.  
 Call 01902 573320

**Mr Stink**  
 Thu at 6.30pm, £7.50 - £14  
 Worcestershire County  
 Museum, DY11 7XZ.  
 Call 01299 250416

**The Three Little Pigs**  
 Tue at 3.30pm - 4.30pm, Wed at  
 11am - 12pm, 1.30pm - 2.30pm,  
 Thu at 11am - 12pm, 1.30pm -  
 2.30pm, £12 - £14  
 Birmingham Town Hall,  
 B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

**Barnum**  
 Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,  
 7.30pm, Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at  
 7.30pm, Wed at 2pm, 7.30pm,  
 Thu at 7.30pm, £19.50 -  
 £48.50  
 Birmingham Hippodrome,  
 B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

## COMEDY

**Kevin Bridges: A Whole Different Story**  
 Sat at 7pm,  
 £25 - £28.80  
 Wolverhampton Civic Hall,  
 WV1 1RQ.  
 Call 0870 320 7000

**Alun Cochrane & Hal Cruttenden**  
 Thu at 6.45pm - 11pm, £10  
 The Glee Club, Birmingham,  
 B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

**Comedy Carousel & Real Food Canteen**  
 Thu at 7pm - 11pm,  
 £5 - £19.50  
 The Glee Club, Birmingham,  
 B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

**Manford's Comedy Club**  
 Sat at 7.30pm - 11pm,  
 £12.50  
 Players Bar Birmingham,  
 B1 2HG. Call 0121 643 6817  
 Comedy in the Met  
 Saturday at 8pm  
 Stafford Gatehouse Theatre  
 ST16 2LT. Call 01785 619080

## ART GALLERIES

**Stanley Sellers Bequest**  
 Fri at 10.30am - 5pm, Sat at 10am -  
 5pm, Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon  
 at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am -  
 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at  
 10am - 5pm, Free  
 Birmingham Museum and Art  
 Gallery, B3 3DH.  
 Call 0121 303 1966

**Artist Development West Midlands**  
 Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10am -  
 5pm, Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon at  
 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm,  
 Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am -  
 5pm, Free  
 The New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2  
 8LG. Call 01922 654400

**Love Is Enough: William Morris And Andy Warhol**  
 Fri at 10.30am - 5pm, Sat at 10am -  
 5pm, Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon  
 at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am -  
 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at  
 10am - 5pm, £3 - £17  
 Birmingham Museum and Art  
 Gallery, B3 3DH.  
 Call 0121 303 1966

**Antiques For Everyone**  
 Fri at 12am, Sat at 12am, Sun at  
 12am, £12  
 The NEC Birmingham, B40 1NT.  
 Call 0121 780 4141

**St Ives Artists From The Clive Beardsmore Gift Exhibition**  
 Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10am -  
 5pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Tue at  
 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm,  
 Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free  
 The New Art Gallery Walsall,  
 WS2 8LG. Call 01922 654400

**Animal Architecture**  
 Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10am -  
 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at  
 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm,  
 Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free  
 Wolverhampton Art Gallery,  
 WV1 1DU. Call 01902 552055

## FAMILY EVENTS

**Digital Music Making: Workshop (Ages 6-11)**  
 Tue at 10am - 3pm, £10.50  
 mac, Cannon Hill Road,  
 Birmingham, B12 9QH.  
 Call 0121 446 3232

**Summer Holiday Family Fun**  
 Fri at 12am, Sat at 12am, Sun at  
 12am, Mon at 12am, Tue at  
 12am, Wed at 12am, Thu at  
 12am,  
 Cadbury World, Bournville,  
 Birmingham, B30 2LU.  
 Call 0844 880 7667

**Central Youth Theatre: Workshop (Ages 7-12)**  
 Sun at 11am - 1pm,  
 Newhampton Arts Centre,  
 Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN.  
 Call 01902 572090

**Diddi Dance: Workshop (Ages 2-4)**  
 Tue at 10am,  
 Newhampton Arts Centre,  
 Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN.  
 Call 01902 572090

## TALKS

**An Evening with Boycott & Aggers - The Second Innings!**  
 Mon at 7.30pm - 10pm,  
 £23.50  
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham,  
 B1 2EA.  
 Call 0121 780 3333

**Poetry Bites**  
 Tue at 12pm  
 Kitchen Garden Cafe, Kings  
 Heath, Birmingham, B14 7SA.  
 Call 0121 443 4725

## OTHER EVENTS

**Festival Of Black Country Vehicles**  
 Sun at 12am, £0 - £45  
 The Black Country Living  
 Museum, Tipton Rd, Dudley,  
 DY1 4SQ.  
 Call 0121 557 9643

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star



# New fusion of Zulu music and dance



A scene from Inala, featuring top dancers and choral group Ladysmith Black Mambazo, which is coming to Birmingham

FOLLOWING a 2014 tour and sell-out runs at both the Edinburgh International Festival and London's Sadler's Wells, Inala brings together four-time Grammy Award-winning South African choral legends, Ladysmith Black Mambazo with dancers choreographed by the multi-award winning Mark Baldwin.

This unique artistic collaboration sees the Zulu culture-inspired production reworked for 2015 and it comes to Birmingham's New Alexandra

Theatre from Monday to Wednesday as part of a UK tour.

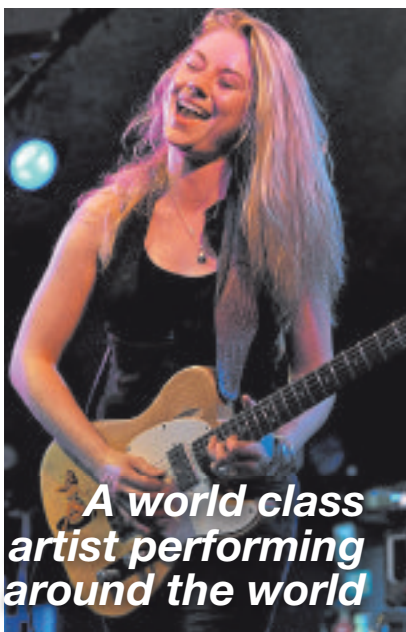
Inala means 'abundance of goodwill' in Zulu and delivers an uplifting live experience, powered by music, song and dance. It features current and former dancers from The Royal Ballet and Rambert with an original score performed by Ladysmith Black Mambazo, created by the group's founder Joseph Shabalala and British composer Ella Spira.

They created the concept for Inala

with the Royal Ballet's Pietra Mello-Pittman, who said: "Inala is influenced by Zulu dancing and South African stories and cultures, creating a new language of dance that respects the traditions of 'pure' classical dance training of all our dancers."

Male choral group Ladysmith Black Mambazo found worldwide fame when they sang on Paul Simon's Graceland album in 1986.

For tickets see atgtickets.com/birmingham or call 0844 871 3011.



A world class artist performing around the world

## Home grown guitar hero

BLACK Country blues rock singer and guitarist Joanne Shaw Taylor will play her only club show of the summer in Bilston.

The songwriter, who released her latest album, The Dirty Truth, last September, will perform live for fans at the Robin 2 in Bilston on Saturday.

Joanne grew up in the Black Country, leaving school at 16 and running straight into her big break when her demo landed in the hands of Eurythmics icon Dave Stewart after a charity gig.

Her debut album White Sugar followed in 2008 and since then she has released another four albums to critical acclaim from rock and blues pundits across the worlds. She has also moved to live in the United States, where her fiery fretwork is much in demand.

Blues fan and Robin 2 owner Mike Hamblett said: "Joanne played her first ever performance at The Robin in Brierley Hill back in 2000, as a young teenager."

"She has gone on to become a world class artist, performing around the world."

He continued: "It gives me great pleasure and is a great honour to see Joanne come back to her roots performing once again at the Robin 2, with special guests Virgil & The Accelerators, another great emerging blues rock talent destined for much bigger things."

Tickets cost £17.50 in advance or £19.50 on the night, available from therobin.co.uk or by calling the box office on 01902 401211.

### Comedy, cricket and Carpenters

ONE-NIGHTERS over the forthcoming weekend and week include veteran vocal group The Drifters at the Wulfrun Hall tomorrow night (Friday) and Glaswegian comic Kevin Bridges at the Civic Hall in Wolverhampton on Saturday.

Also on Saturday is Voice of the Heart, a two-hour tribute to the music of The Carpenters featuring singer Carole Gordon, the Blue Jeans Band and singers at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre.

Behatted singer-songwriter Badly Drawn Boy is at Birmingham's Town Hall on Saturday, and Geoffrey Boycott and Jonathan Agnew share cricket anecdotes at the Symphony Hall on Monday.

### Folk gig is delayed by bizarre accident

A CONCERT by folk veterans The Straws has been put back to the new year after singer Dave Cousins choked on a cup of tea and passed out.

The band was due to perform at the Robin 2 in Bilston on July 24. But Dave was taken to hospital on June 16 after choking on a cup of tea. This caused him to lose consciousness, hitting his head. He was discharged on June 19 but the accident dislodged a kidney stone and on June 24 he was operated on.

The band's leader for 50 years, he is recovering well but is not yet fit enough to tour. The show has been rescheduled for April 27.

### Autumn of rock in West Midlands

AUTUMN is shaping up to be a memorable season for indie rock fans with some choice gigs.

US psych band Wand play of tea and passed out. The Rainbow in Digbeth on September 12. Rising stars Wolf Alice, one of the hits of Glas- tonbury, play The Institute on September 17. In October highlights include West Midlands homecomings for Peace at Wolverhampton Civic (Oct 10) and Swim Deep at The Institute (Oct 17). Singer-songwriter James Bay is at O2 Academy in Brum (Oct 8), London's next big thing Gengahar are at the Hare & Hounds in Kings Heath (Oct 12) and Liverpool's Circa Waves play The Institute (Oct 16).

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**EVENTS**

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We also hold a popular music festival a couple of times a year and plans are underway to create a Folk/Jazz club in the cellar bar (musicians get in touch!).

Here's what a typical week entails at the Samson and Lion of Stourbridge.

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Penguins nesting at Boulders Beach



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Sunset at Clifton Bay

# Cape Town – so much to see, so little time, but so worthwhile

**FORTY-EIGHT** hours in Cape Town – so much to do, so little time. But as a tag-on to a safari or the Garden Route, it's worthwhile.

Food, wine, culture and cabs are ridiculously cheap thanks to the strong pound against the rand.

On my visit, I plan to take in the obvious highlights for first-time visitors.

I start with a visit to the jewel in the geological crown of this diverse metropolis, the majestic Table Mountain, a sandstone wonder of the world which looms large wherever you go in the city.

The string of peaks known as the 12 Apostles are a favourite with hikers, but I chose to join the queue for the Cableway cable car on a five-minute ride to the top (adult return 225 rand/around £12.50). A

By Hannah Stephenson

revolving floor within the car ensures all budding photographers have a 360 degree birds' eye view.

You could spend a good few hours up here balancing your yin and yang. Young visitors sunbathe on the rocks, others seek out the flora, fauna and wildlife – I see lizards, but there are also guinea-pig-like creatures called rock rabbits, or dassies, and nearly 1,500 species of fynbos, including proteas, ericas and reeds.

After Table Mountain, I head for the lush vineyards of Constantia, around 20 minutes away, to test my palate with a wine-tasting session at Bistro Sixteen82 at Steenberg Farm, which produces some of the country's finest wine.

To blow the cobwebs away after lunch, I head for Boulders Beach, home to colonies

of African penguins nesting on the beach and waddling about on the rocks. You pay 60 rand (£3.30) to get in, but have good vantage points from the boardwalk.

Further up the coastline of False Bay, I stop off for souvenirs at the quirky, bohemian seaside town of Kalk Bay.

## Sophisticated

After a full day, I'm ready to try some of South Africa's finest fare. Cape Town offers a wealth of sophisticated dining based on local produce. I try springbok and ostrich while I'm here, as well as abundant seafood, from freshly caught tuna and angel fish, to oysters and scallops.

The next day, I venture to the spot I anticipate will be the highlight of my 48 hours – Robben Island. Catching the ferry from the Nelson Mandela Gateway at the fashionable V&A Waterfront, a symbol of Cape

Town's resurgence post-apartheid with its trendy restaurants, upmarket shopping malls, colonial-style buildings and working harbour, Robben Island and all it represents could be a million miles away.

It's actually a half-hour boat ride to the island, a Unesco World Heritage Site, which had been used as a prison since the 17th century and also served as a leper colony and as a lunatic asylum. We're taken on a bus around this desolate scrubland stopping at the limestone quarry where the prisoners spent their days breaking rocks in the scorching sun.

Back on the mainland, I experience the other extreme, namely fashionable Clifton, one of the wealthiest areas of Cape Town.

Here, we stay at Cape View, which calls itself a luxury guesthouse but that's a huge understatement. Checking my watch, I've done my 48 hours but I wish I had more...

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CHOICE



Len Goodman

**Dancing Through the Blitz: Blackpool's Big Band Story (BBC2, 9.10pm)**  
To commemorate the 70th anniversary of VE day, Jools Holland, Lucy Worsley and Len Goodman celebrate the big band sound and explore the social history behind the music that saw Britain through the Second World War. They trace the evolution of big band music from its beginnings in 1920s America to its glory days in the three decades that followed. Jools demonstrates how the big band sound developed through the influence of legends such as Duke Ellington, while Len and Lucy explore the dancing that accompanied big bands during the war, like the energetic Jitterbug. Featuring contributions by Petula Clark, Roy Hudd and Juliet Gardiner.

BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 The Box. (R) 12.00 BBC News: Weather. 12.10 Live Formula 1: The Hungarian Grand Prix Qualifying.** Suzi Perry introduces coverage from the Hungaroring (Start-time 1.00pm). **2.20 Live Athletics: Anniversary Games.** Coverage from the Olympic Stadium in London. **5.20 Celebrity Mastermind.** With Ken Dodd, Ore Oduba, Lizzy Yarnold and Alex Riley. (R) **5.50 Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong quizzes eight chart-topping singers - Paul Young and Carol Decker, Sheila Ferguson and Dana, Paul Heaton and Jacqui Abbott and Keith Duffy and Mikey Graham. (R)  
**6.40 BBC News.**  
**6.50 Regional Programme.**  
**7.00 Prized Apart.** The four remaining adventurers in Morocco compete on the side of Barrage el Mansour's dam, as the series reaches a dramatic finale. Last in the series.  
**8.05 The National Lottery: Five Star Family Reunion.** The all-important winning numbers are revealed.  
**9.00 Casualty.** Jacob starts his first day at Holby's accident and emergency department, and he immediately has to put his powers of persuasion to use when a lie nearly costs a girl her life. Medical drama, starring Charles Venn.  
**9.50 Mrs Brown's Boys.** Agnes looks after a robotic baby that has been given to Dermot and Maria to help them prepare for their new arrival, but uses unorthodox methods to stop the fake infant from crying. Meanwhile, Cathy develops a crush on her psychology lecturer. Comedy, written by and starring Brendan O'Carroll. (R)  
**10.20 BBC News: Weather.** National Lottery Update.  
**10.40 Not Going Out.** The friends jet off on a summer holiday, only for Lucy and Daisy to endure the worst flinger of their lives when Lee gets a bad case of the jitters on the plane. (R)  
**11.10 Film: The Proposal.** (2009) A Canadian publishing editor trying to avoid deportation from America bribes her assistant into a marriage of convenience. Romantic comedy, with Sandra Bullock and Ryan Reynolds.  
**12.55 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.00 BBC News.**

BBC2

**6.00 This Is BBC Two. 6.35 Formula 1: The Hungarian Grand Prix - Practice One. (R) 8.15 Formula 1: The Hungarian Grand Prix - Practice Two. (R) 9.55 Live Formula 1: The Hungarian Grand Prix - Practice Three. 11.10 F1 Rewind: First Wins. 12.10 Gene Kelly: Talking Pictures. (R) 12.45 Film: Singin' in the Rain.** (1952) Musical comedy, starring Gene Kelly. **2.30 Escape to the Continent. 3.30 Flog It! (R) 4.00 The House That £100K Built. (R) 5.00 The House That £100K Built.** Journalist Kieran Long and architect Piers Taylor follow the progress of Sholto and his partner Marcus, whose dream to build a dream home near Inverness has proved problematic. (R)  
**6.00 Ocean Queens: The Story of Cunard.** As all three of Cunard's world famous liners make an historic visit to Liverpool, Simon O'Brien reflects on 175 years of pioneering transatlantic travel.  
**6.30 Gardeners' World.** Monty Don travels to Cambridge for a tour of the garden at Clare College. He also catches up with various seasonal tasks at Longmeadow and harvests the first of his tomato crop. (R)  
**7.00 Proms Extra 2015.** New series. Katie Derham chats to violinist Nicola Benedetti, who performs in the studio. Plus, previews of the week's concerts and David Owen Norris presents Inside the Score.  
**7.40 Edwardian Farm.** Alex Langlands and Peter Ginn set sail on a fishing trip, steering a wind-powered vessel, casting a net and mastering sea shanties. Meanwhile, Ruth Goodman holds a seance. (R)  
**8.40 Dad's Army.** The bumbling platoon boosts its fighting strength by acquiring an armoured car. Classic comedy, starring Clive Dunn and Arthur Lowe. (R)  
**9.10 Dancing Through the Blitz: Blackpool's Big Band Story.** To commemorate the 70th anniversary of VE day, Jools Holland, Lucy Worsley and Len Goodman celebrate the big band sound that saw Britain through the Second World War.  
**10.40 Film: Zodiac.** (2007) Fact-based crime thriller following the hunt for a serial killer who terrorised San Francisco in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Robert Downey Jr.  
**1.10 Film: Repo Chick.** (2009) **2.35 This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

**6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! 6.25 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan. (R) 6.45 Dino Dan. (R) 7.00 Animals. (R) 7.15 Sooty. (R) 7.30 Super 4. (R) 7.45 Fish Hooks. 8.00 Young Justice: Invasion. (R) 8.25 ITV News. 8.30 Weekend. 9.25 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 10.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 11.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 12.25 ITV News: Weather. 12.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 1.35 Surprise Surprise. (R) 2.35 The Chase. (R) 3.30 All Star Family Fortunes. (R) 4.15 Tipping Point. (R) 5.15 Catchphrase. (R)  
**6.00 Regional Programme: Weather. 6.15 ITV News: Weather.**  
**6.30 You've Been Framed!** Comedy from the mind of Harry Hill, inspired by viewers' videos. A toy bear is interrogated for information, a little girl's prayers turn into a terrifying threat. Disney princesses conduct body searches and One Direction vandalise a family home. Plus, the Great Susan Boyle Eyebrow Race and tips for keeping a marriage fresh. (R)  
**7.00 Film: Despicable Me.** (2010) A criminal mastermind hopes to seal his reputation as the greatest villain of them all by stealing the moon. First he needs to get his hands on a shrinking ray owned by a rival evil genius, and adopts three orphan girls to help him - but finds that fatherhood brings out his long-buried caring side. Animated comedy, with the voices of Steve Carell, Jason Segel, Russell Brand and Julie Andrews.  
**9.00 The Nation's Favourite 80s Number One.** The spotlight is turned to the 1980s - a defining decade in both pop and fashion. Featuring interviews with Spandau Ballet, Bonnie Tyler and Madness, plus a look at the stories behind chart classics such as Don't You Want Me, Tainted Love, Billie Jean and Come On Eileen. Zoe Ball narrates.  
**10.25 ITV News: Weather. 10.45 Film: Twins.** (1988) Genetically designed twin brothers who were separated at birth set out on an adventure in search of their unknown mother. Comedy, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Danny DeVito.  
**12.40 Jackpot247. Interactive gaming. 3.00 Ejector Seat. (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.** Text-based information service.**

CHANNEL 4

**6.05 Ironman UK Bolton. 6.35 FIM Superbike World Championship. 7.00 IPC World Swimming Championships 2015. 8.00 The Morning Line. 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Frasier. (R) 10.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.30 The Simpsons. (R) 12.00 The Simpsons. (R) 12.30 The Simpsons. (R) 1.00 Rude(ish) Tube. 1.30 Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Ascot and York. **4.10 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.45 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.15 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.45 Come Dine with Me. (R)**  
**6.15 Come Dine with Me.** It is the final dinner party in Lancashire and the turn of sales manager Andy to host. He is confident in his locally sourced menu, but faces the challenge of impressing Nicky. (R)  
**6.40 Channel 4 News.**  
**7.00 Homes by the Sea.** Architectural designer Charlie Luxton visits the Isle of Skye in the Inner Hebrides to explore how some of the island's abandoned buildings are being brought back to life by an influx of newcomers. He explores a traditional Skye longhouse, which blends Scottish simplicity and Scandinavian chic, before viewing a white property and a contemporary farm house. Previously seen on More4.  
**8.00 Walking Through History: Norman Conquest of Pembrokeshire.** Tony Robinson embarks on a four-day walk tracing the story of the Norman invasion of Wales, which he discovers was very different from the victory at Hastings. (R)  
**9.00 Film: Pitch Perfect.** (2012) Premiere. A new student finds herself a social outcast during her first year of college, but soon acquires a new circle of friends in a band of misfits with a shared talent for singing. She joins their a cappella group and leads them to compete in the campus music competitions. Comedy, starring Anna Kendrick and Rebel Wilson.  
**11.15 Film: The Tourist.** (2010) A woman tries to trick the police into thinking a tourist is her criminal lover with his appearance surgically changed. Romantic thriller, with Johnny Depp and Angelina Jolie.  
**1.15 The Last Leg. (R) 2.15 Hollyoaks. (R) 4.30 Secret Eaters. (R) 5.25 Kirstie's Vintage Gems. 5.30 Draw It! (R) 5.55 How I Met Your Mother. (R)****

CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) 10.35 Access. 10.40 Cowboy Builders. (R) 11.40 Cowboy Builders. (R) 12.40 Cowboy Builders. (R) 1.35 Film: Columbus: Dead Weight. (1971) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **3.10 The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies. (R) 4.05 Weather Terror: Brits in Peril. (R) 5.05 5 News.** The day's headlines. **5.10 Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Wild.** A former financier who lives on a remote island in Laos. (R)  
**6.10 Come Dine with Me.** It is the final dinner party in Lancashire and the turn of sales manager Andy to host. He is confident in his locally sourced menu, but faces the challenge of impressing Nicky. (R)  
**7.00 Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords.** Landlord Nicholas Parrington discovers a couple are subletting his house, just months after a previous tenant had turned the property into a brothel, while investors in a community centre for children are agast when squatters move into their building. In Lewisham, the council's Rogue Landlord Unit raids one of their main streets, on the lookout for slum conditions, illegal overcrowding and criminal activities. (R)  
**8.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** High-court enforcement officers Paul Bohill and Steve Pinner face some tough decisions when they are given the task of repossessing a house in which a woman is living with two young children. They also pursue a debt of more than £25,000 and visit a tenant in a fashionable London borough who has not paid his rent. (R)  
**9.00 Transporter: The Series.** In Berlin, ex-special forces agent Frank finds a simple chauffeur job ferrying rich young socialite Delia back to her father quickly turns into a protection task after learning German crime lord Frieder Trumpf is aiming to kidnap the young heiress. Action drama, starring Chris Vance. Previously seen on Spike.  
**10.00 Live Championship Boxing.** Nick Blackwell v Damon Jones. Mark Pougatch presents coverage of the bout for the British Middleweight title, held at Derby Arena.  
**12.00 SuperCasino. 3.10 Police Interceptors. (R) 4.50 Make It Big. (R) 5.45 Angels of Jarm. (R)****

DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
**7.00 Top Gear. 8.00 Don't Tell the Bride. 9.00 Film: Shrek (2001) 10.25 Live at the Apollo 11. 10 Family Guy. 1.30 People Just Do Nothing 2.00 Some Girls 3.30 People Just Do Nothing 4.00 Close**  
**BBC Four**  
**7.00 Wild Burma: Nature's Lost Kingdom. 8.00 Pappan's Classical Voices: Baritone & Basses. 9.00 Cordon 10.45 The Heart of Country: How Nashville Became Music City USA 12.15 Johnny Cash: The Man, His World, His Music 1.15 Top of the Pops: 1980 1.50 Wild Burma: Nature's Lost Kingdom 2.50 Timeshift: How to Be a Lady - An Elegant History 3.50 Close**  
**ITV2**  
**11.25 Catchphrase Celebrity Special 12.25 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records 12.55 Film: The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants (2005) 3.15 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway 4.45 Film: The Lake House (2006) 6.50 Film: Back to the Future Part II (1989) 9.00 Film: Love Actually (2003) 11.45 Film: Troy (2004) 2.45 Teleshopping 5.45 ITV2 Nightscreen**  
**ITV3**  
**11.10 Rosemary & Thyme 12.50 A Touch of Frost 4.50 Film: Columbus: Forgotten Lady (1975) 5.55 Doc Martin 8.00 Rosemary & Thyme 9.00 Midsomer Murders 11.05 Agatha Christie's Marple 1.05 Wire in the Blood 2.20 ITV3 Nightscreen 2.30 Teleshopping**  
**ITV4**  
**11.00 Tour de France Highlights 12.00 Tour de France Live. Coverage of the 20th stage. 4.00 British Superbike Championship Highlights 5.00 Counting Cars 6.00 Storage Wars: Texas 7.00 Tour de France Highlights 8.00 Film: The Living Daylights (1987) 10.40 Film: The Long Kiss Goodnight (1996) 1.05 Tour de France Highlights 1.55 The Cycle Show 2.45 Movies Now 2.55 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping**  
**E4**  
**11.30 Melissa & Joey 12.30 Baby Daddy 1.30 How I Met Your Mother 2.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 3.00 The Goldbergs 4.30 Film: Journey to the Center of the Earth (2008) 6.30 The Big Bang Theory 9.00 Film: Shallow Hal (2001) 11.15 Gogglebox 12.50 Bad Robots 1.20 Rude Tube 2.25 Virtually Famous 3.10 How I Met Your Mother 3.50 Rude(ish) Tube 4.15 Revenge**  
**Film4**  
**11.00 Silent Running (1972) 1.00 Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) 3.05 Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (2012) 4.45 The Grinch (2003) 6.55 Scrooged (1988) 8.00 Transporter 3 (2008) 11.05 Hush (2008) 12.50 The Insider (1999) 4.00 Close**

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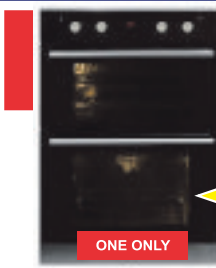


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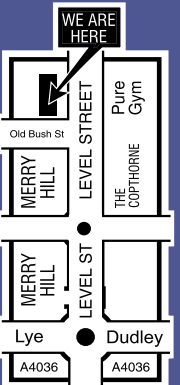
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## CHOICE



Fiona Bruce

**Fake or Fortune? (BBC1, 8pm)**

Fiona Bruce and art expert Philip Mould help Under-Sheriff and Secondary of London Charles Henty investigate whether two paintings in his possession are as valuable as he thinks. The first is a landscape picture of Dedham in Essex, thought to have been painted by pre-eminent British artist Alfred Munnings, and the second painting is of a medieval French village, and was rumoured to have been produced by part-time painter, full-time prime minister Winston Churchill. Charles hopes the sale of these two potentially pricey heirlooms will help protect jobs at a working French farm he inherited from his late uncle, but first he must learn whether the pictures are truly genuine. Last in the series.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **12.00** BBC News. Weather. **12.15** Live Formula 1: The Hungarian Grand Prix. Coverage of the race from the Hungaroring (Start-time 1.00pm). **3.15** A Question of Sport. (R) **3.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.30** Nigel Slater: Eating Together. (R) **5.00** Lifeline. **5.10** Songs of Praise. **5.45** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

**6.35 BBC News.****6.50 Regional Programme.**

**7.00** **Countryfile**. Matt Baker, Ellie Harrison, Adam Henson and Tom Heap visit the Kent County Show for the programme's summer special. John Hammond uses a weird and wonderful experiment to demonstrate why the area's climate is so good for growing fruit, while there are displays from the Metropolitan Mounted Police and a Spitfire fly-by to mark the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. Football Focus presenter Dan Walker is also on hand to commentate on a race with a difference as the presenters pit their wits against each other. including Weather for the Week Ahead.

**8.00** **Fake or Fortune?** Fiona Bruce and Philip Mould explore the history of two potentially valuable pictures thought to have been painted by Alfred Munnings and Winston Churchill. Last in the series.

**9.00** **Partners in Crime**. New series. Crime drama based on novels by Agatha Christie. An ordinary married couple are thrust into a world of international espionage. Starring David Walliams and Jessica Raine, with Clarke Peters, Alice Krige and James Fleet.

**10.00 BBC News.****10.20 Regional Programme.**

**10.30** **Prized Apart**. The four remaining adventurers in Morocco compete on the side of Barrage el Mansour's dam, as the series reaches a dramatic finale. Last in the series. (R)

**11.35** **Don't Tell the Bride**. Darren plans a movie premiere-inspired wedding for his bride-to-be Jacque and has a budget of £14,000 to spend, but she is hoping for a small, elegant and traditional event. (R)

**12.35** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.40** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.00** This is BBC Two. **6.40** Big Dreams Small Spaces. (R) **7.40** Countryfile. (R) **8.25** The Beechgrove Garden. **8.55** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.25** BMX World Championships. **10.25** Saturday Kitchen Best Blues. **11.55** The Box. (R) **12.25** Alex Polizzi: Chefs on Trial. (R) **1.25** Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers: Talking Pictures. (R) **2.15** Film: Shall We Dance? (1937) **4.00** Flog It! (R) **4.30** Two Tribes. **5.00** Hair. (R) **5.30** Hair. (R)

**6.00** **Ghost Bear Family: Natural World**. Canadian film-maker Jeff Turner and his own family spend a year with a family of North American black bears that are born pure white due to a quirk of genetics. (R)

**7.00** **Locomotion: Dan Snow's History of Railways**. The development of the UK's rail network, from its beginnings as a primitive system of trackways for coal carts in the early 18th century up to the present day. (R)

**8.00** **Dragons' Den**. A pair of entrepreneurs try to persuade the Dragons to invest in their potential solution to tidying TV cables, while Peter, Touker and Nick test out muscle enhancing clothing.

**9.00** **Odyssey**. Odelle is reunited with her young friend Aslam, while Harrison makes inquiries about a story his father left unfinished. Thriller, starring Anna Friel and Jake Robinson.

**9.45** **The Javone Prince Show**. The PhoneShop and Horrible Histories actor is attacked by ninjas, reveals Will.i.am's new role as a HR consultant, hears all about his announcer's grudge against actor Idris Elba.

**10.15** **Family Guy**. Brian becomes an estate agent after having cosmetic surgery.

**10.35** **Family Guy**. Peter and Quagmire form a singer-songwriter partnership.

**10.55** **Family Guy**. Peter goes on a quest to save Quagmire's annual Christmas carnival from cancellation, which involves transforming his father-in-law from a scrooge to a home-town hero.

**11.20** **Film: Adventureland**. (2009) Comedy, with Jesse Eisenberg, Kristen Stewart and Ryan Reynolds.

**1.00** **Film: Kicks**. (2009) **2.20** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.05** Holby City. (R) **4.05** This is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Super 4. (R) **7.45** Fish Hooks. **8.00** Young Justice: Invasion. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** ITV News. Weather. **12.35** Love Your Garden. (R) **1.35** Long Lost Family: What Happened Next. (R) **2.35** Midsomer Murders. (R) **4.35** Film: King Ralph (1991) The British royal family is wiped out in a freak accident, making a slobbish Las Vegas singer the claimant to the throne. Comedy, with John Goodman, Peter O Toole and John Hurt.

**6.25** **Regional Programme**; Weather. **6.40** **ITV News**; Weather.

**7.00** **Meet the Penguins**. Documentary following the story of Adrian Walls, head of birds at London Zoo, as he fulfils a lifelong ambition to see endangered Humboldt penguins in the wilds of Peru.

**8.00** **Surprise Surprise**. Holly Willoughby celebrates one last selection of public heroes, including a woman with cancer who helps terminally ill people enjoy the wedding of their dreams. Last in the series.

**9.00** **Joanna Lumley's Trans-Siberian Adventure**. Joanna concludes her journey, visiting the city where the Russian royal family was killed, before returning to the place where she was photographed in 1966. Last in the series.

**10.00** **ITV News**; Weather. **10.20** **Bear Grylls: Mission Survive**. Kelly Holmes, Mike Tindall and Vogue Williams back to be crowned winner, as they abseil down a waterfall and follow the sound of a distress signal. Last in the series. (R)

**11.20** **Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Beverley Callard**. The Coronation Street star looks back on her acting career and turbulent personal life. She reveals how a nervous breakdown led her to the brink of suicide. She also reflects on her four marriages, and opens up about her grandfather, who was jailed for killing a man. (R)

**12.10** **Jackpot247**. **3.00** **Motorsport UK**. **3.50** **British Superbike Championship Highlights**. **4.40** **ITV Nightscreen**. **5.05** **The Jeremy Kyle Show**. (R)

## CHANNEL 4

**6.20** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.45** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05** Volkswagen Racing Cup. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** Anniversary Games Athletics. Coverage of the meeting at The Stadium at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London. **4.40** Channel 4 News. **5.10** Film: Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen. (2009) Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Shia LaBeouf.

**8.00** **Experimental**. New series. Presenter Tim Shaw and daredevil friend Buddy Munro travel the globe to recreate some of the most famous – and dangerous – viral videos to have ever appeared on the internet, hoping to uncover the scientific truth behind them in the process. In the first episode, Tim tries to remake a video of Wimbledon champion Novak Djokovic playing tennis on the wings of a flying plane, taking Buddy to Germany to see if they can achieve the same on an Antonov AN-2 aircraft. Strapped to the wings, Buddy challenges a professional air-acrobat to a rally hundreds of metres above the German countryside. The pair also drop 7,000 mint sweets into 1,000 litres of cola, and Buddy tries an unusual freeman's lift in Whitehaven, Cumbria – being elevated on a platform by just the force of fire engine water hoses.

**9.00** **Humans**. Pete tries to find out who Karen really is, but is unprepared for what he finds out. Laura provides the fugitive synth with a safe hiding place as Hobb closes in on them.

**10.08** **Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown**. Jimmy Carr hosts the words-and-numbers panel game, in which Sean Lock and Mel Giedroyc compete against Lee Mack and David O'Doherty. With Adam Buxton in Dictionary Corner. (R)

**11.00** **Film: The Change-Up**. (2011) Two friends envy each other's lives, but when they magically switch bodies, they both learn that the other does not have it so easy. Comedy, with Jason Bateman.

**1.10** Channel 4 Comedy Gala 2015: Best Bits. **2.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.25** You Deserve This House. (R) **5.15** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. **5.30** Draw It! (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.35** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.45** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.55** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.10** Roorback and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.25** Paw Patrol. **7.40** Little Princess. (R) **7.55** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.05** Zack and Quack. (R) **8.15** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.30** Jelly Jam. (R) **8.45** Lazy Town. (R) **9.15** Dora and Friends. (R) **9.45** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.20** Access. **10.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.20** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.00** Film: Richie Rich. (1994) Family comedy, starring Macaulay Culkin. **3.10** Film: Big Momma's House 2. (2006) Comedy sequel, starring Martin Lawrence. **5.10** News Weekend. **5.15** Britain's Best Loved Double Acts. (R)

**8.00** **Police Interceptors Unleashed with Winnie Jones**. The actor introduces more clips of police in action. In Lincolnshire, officers are hot on the heels of a burglar, a roadside stop results in a huge bag of cannabis being discovered, and Jon Peacock encounters the country's fussiest hotel. Plus, police in Essex deal with a potential hostage situation. Previously seen on Spike.

**9.00** **Film: Resident Evil: Retribution**. (2012) Premiere. Zombie fighter Alice finds herself trapped in a top-secret underground base as a virus sweeps the world, turning the human race into the undead. She battles through the complex in search of those responsible for the outbreak and faces an old friend, now under the control of her enemies. Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring Milla Jovovich, Sienna Guillory and Michelle Rodriguez. Includes 5 News Update at 10pm.

**10.50** **Film: The Last of the Mohicans**. (1992) A frontiersman falls for a British officer's daughter who is being hunted by a vengeful war chief during the Anglo-French War. Adventure, with Daniel Day-Lewis and Madeleine Stowe.

**1.00** **SuperCasino**. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10** Under the Dome. Christine plays mind games with the townsfolk of Chester's Mill. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. A Victorian house in Norwich. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
**7.00** Formula 1: Hungarian Grand Prix – Highlights. **8.00** Don't Tell the Bride **9.00** Film: Meet the Fockers (2004) **10.50** Live at the Apollo **11.20** Family Guy **12.50** American Dad! **12.55** Family Guy **12.55** People Just Do Nothing **1.20** Don't Take My Baby **2.20** The Ugly Face of Disability Hate Crime **3.15** Live at the Apollo **3.50** Great TV Mistakes

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** BBC Proms Sunday Symphony **8.15** Neil Sedaka Says: All You Need is the Music **9.00** A Blackpool Big Band Boogie. Jools Holland and His Rhythm & Blues Orchestra **10.00** Len Goodman's Big Band Bonanza **11.15** The Golden Age of Steam Railways **12.00** Brakeless: Why Trains Crash – Storyville **1.00** Great American Rock Anthems: Turn It Up to 11 **2.00** What Ever Happened to Rock 'n' Roll? **3.00** The Golden Age of Steam Railways

**ITV2**  
**12.15** Take Me Out **1.40** Take Me Out – The Gossip **2.45** Catchphrase Celebrity Special **3.45** Film: Beethoven (1991) **5.30** Film: Scooby-Doo (2002) **7.15** Film: Johnny English (2003) **9.00** Film: 300 (2006) **11.20** Safeworld **12.00** Film: Romy and Michele's High School Reunion (1987) **1.55** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

**ITV3**  
**11.00** Film: Columbo: Forgotten Lady (1975) **1.05** Film: Vanity Fair (2004) **3.55** Film: On the Buses (1971) **5.45** A Touch of Frost **8.00** Inspector Morse **10.20** Birds of a Feather **10.50** Film: Something's Gotta Give (2003) **1.15** Blue Murder **2.40** Cornwall with Caroline Quentin **3.25** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

**ITV4**  
**12.00** Tour de France Highlights **1.00** Tour de France Live: La Course. The women's 90km race. **3.00** Storage Wars: New York **4.00** Tour de France Live. Coverage of the 21st stage. **7.00** Counting Cars **8.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special **9.00** Tour de France Highlights **10.00** Film: Tango & Cash (1989) **12.10** Film: DOA: Dead or Alive (2006) **1.40** Duck Dynasty **2.05** Tour de France Highlights **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

**E4**  
**12.25** Couples Come Dine with Me **2.30** The Big Bang Theory **5.30** The Big Bang Theory – E4's Top 20 **8.00** Film: The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (2010) **10.15** Gogglebox **11.55** Film: Scary Movie 2 (2001) **1.30** Tattoo The Kids (1989) **6.40** The Game (2003) **9.00** Taken (2008) **10.50** End of Watch (2012) **1.00** Gone Too Far! (2013)

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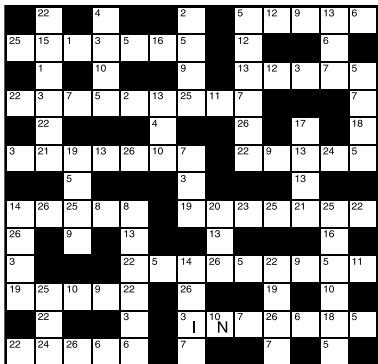




BRAIN GYM No.335

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

E	R	D	G	X	T	F	H	S	N	L	K	P
J	Y	Z	B	W	I	V	Q	A	U	M	O	C

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

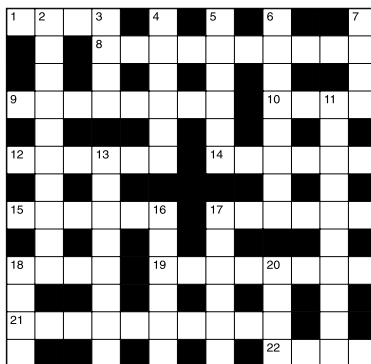
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Come a cropper in the cropping season? (4)
- Apropos the sign of possession... (10)
- ... be seen again to gather fruit (8)
- Shed players (4)
- It's obvious father can camp (6)
- Fearsome things almost - they can't be right! (6)
- Didn't get the desired husband? (6)
- Despises ship holding grain (6)
- The weather they have at Spithead at present (4)
- Flowers, perhaps (8)
- Failed to notice being in somebody's view (10)
- Favourites return at the interval (4)

Down

- Later change a can with nothing in it for a change (10)
- The French politician throws light on things (4)
- Powerful ring given for article in 12 (6)
- Averts disaster only to die of hunger (6)
- Entertainment with nothing but a musical composition (8)
- Master the rhythm? (4)
- A season in leap-year, no doubt (10)
- Tread was pointing to the rising sun (8)
- It may mean no treat when he treats! (6)
- Match action taken by workers (6)
- Tops up here (4)
- The last things to associate with odds (4)



Quick Clues:

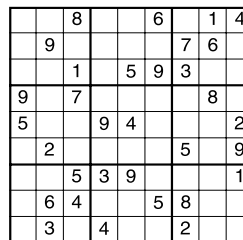
Across

- Girl (4)
- Ineffective (10)
- Footpath (8)
- Not new (4)
- Amuse (6)
- Marauder (6)
- Put in (6)
- Invent (6)
- Liability (4)
- Capsize (8)
- Confederate (10)
- Humble (4)

Down

- Disagreeing (2,8)
- Certain (4)
- Mourn (6)
- Railery (6)
- Light up (8)
- Old (4)
- Voters (10)
- Building (6)
- Company (6)
- Believe (6)
- Do business (4)
- Pour (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

4	9	8	2	5	6	1	3	7
2	7	6	1	8	3	9	5	4
5	3	1	7	9	4	2	6	8
8	2	4	5	6	7	3	9	1
7	1	3	8	2	9	6	4	5
6	5	9	4	3	1	8	7	2
1	6	5	3	7	8	4	2	9
9	4	7	6	1	2	5	8	3
3	8	2	9	4	5	7	1	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Image; 8 Ironing; 9 Handsaw; 10 Locum; 12 Large print; 15 Rolling sea; 16 Eight; 18 Ordinal; 21 Find out; 22 Amiss. Down: 1 Light verse; 2 Maine; 3 Pens; 4 Bigwig; 5 Collapse; 6 Circuit; 11 Metabolism; 13 Aviation; 14 Elegant; 16 Ghosts; 17 Anvil; 20 Drag. QUICK - Across: 7 Touch; 8 Actions; 9 Tunesful; 10 Rider; 12 Settlement; 15 Evanescent; 18 Yearn; 19 Uniform; 21 Classic; 22 Learn. Down: 1 Stationery; 2 Funny; 3 Chef; 4 Tablet; 5 Sturgeon; 6 Soldier; 11 Retirement; 13 Evenness; 14 Caravan; 16 Crutch; 17 Focal; 20 Idle.

Thinking space

Quiz

- What nationality was detective writer Georges Simenon?
- In what year was the St. Valentine's Day massacre?
- What type of variety act was made popular by Edgar Bergen and Ray Alan?
- Who was born first, Yoko Ono or John Lennon?
- With which branch of science do you associate Copernicus?
- Which agricultural pioneer invented the seed drill?
- What was the real surname of American black muslim leader Malcolm X?
- From which country did the U.S. buy Florida?
- Of which country was Juan Peron the president?
- What does RADAR stand for?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Violin; 2 22; 3 Franklin D Roosevelt; 4 Hiram Maxim; 5 New Zealand; 6 Capability; 7 Ruritania; 8 1983; 9 The first men's and women's public flushing lavatories; 10 Escoffier. Niner: HYPOCRITE

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

835 gives an animal,  
91529 gives a large bird,  
5362745 gives a baby bird.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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# Princesses transported in economical comfort to a magical land

By Matt Joy

In month two of driving the Lexus NX300h, Matt Joy puts it through its paces with a cross-channel trip to Disneyland Paris.

We live in a world dominated by speed. How fast your broadband is, how quickly your food arrives at your table and perhaps worst of all; how fast your car is. Even as someone who should technically be a responsible adult, I still get caught up in the big rush.

The Lexus NX300h is, by conventional measures, quick enough for modern driving with a top speed of 112mph and 0-62mph in 9.2 seconds, but in the last month, I've discovered one of its best qualities is how it makes me drive with calm restraint.

This is in part due to the cabin. You climb slightly up into the driver's seat, instantly giving you that commanding driving position which is why you would buy one in the first place. But the NX goes a step further, with a dashboard stacked so it sits up high with you, as well as a clever nod to the exterior in its shape.

## Energy

Even the displays give you a gentle nudge in the right direction, if you wish. With the car in Sport mode there's a conventional rev counter illuminated in suitably racy red, but in Normal or Eco mode it instead indicates how efficiently you're driving. You can also bring up the energy flow meter between the dials or on the large screen, showing when the NX is running on petrol, electric or a combination. Competitive moron that I am, keeping it in EV mode for as long as possible becomes a game whilst remaining a good way of keeping emissions and consumption low.

Good consumption was on the priority list, however, for a family trek to Disneyland Paris. Normally I'd advocate a flight, but the NX had the right amount of room on board for two princesses (and me) and all the luggage that comes with that. There's also an argument that eight hours on motorways and autoroutes is still less stressful than 30 seconds in a UK airport in June.

And so it proved. Two four hour stints behind the wheel, even starting at 4.15am, were as easy as they could be on the driver thanks to the comfort on offer.

Better still, the radar-guided cruise control fitted to this luxury-spec model proved its worth yet again. Sure, you need to adapt your driving style slightly to keep things smooth, but do so and you're expending less effort than if you were taking full control yourself, and that pays off with less fatigue.

The excellent stereo system kept us entertained too, although I have yet to work out how to cancel the navigation announcements altogether; turning them down is fine, but the audio still pauses for an announcement that isn't there. My money is still on operator error, but if you will let Mickey Mouse behind the wheel...

## TESTED

Lexus NX 300h Luxury, from £34,495

**Engine:** 2.5-litre petrol engine and electric motors, together producing 192bhp

**Transmission:** E-CVT automatic driving all four wheels.

**Performance:** Top speed 112mph, 0-62mph in 9.2 seconds

**Economy:** 54.3mpg combined

**Emissions:** 121g/km of CO2

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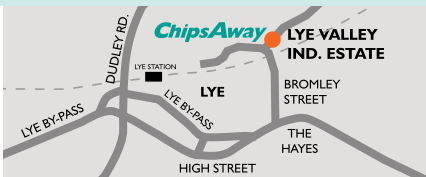
✓ Paintwork scratches

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## DRIVETIME



## Hyundai is 'best carmaker'

Hyundai Motor UK has been awarded 'Best Carmaker of the Year' at the 2015 Motor Trader Awards. This is the third time in six years that the accolade has been bestowed to the Company – it previously won in 2010 and 2011.

The Carmaker of the Year award, sponsored by Allianz Global Assistance, was voted for by a panel of judges who were impressed by Hyundai's continued delivery of customer care and dealer satisfaction, alongside its ever-changing product line-up and the introduction of a revolutionary way of buying these new products through Rockar Hyundai.

Curtis Hutchinson, editor, Motor Trader said: "For the third time in six years, Hyundai Motor UK has won Motor Trader's Carmaker of the Year Award in recognition of its sales success, desirable new models, focus on customer care and its close and profitable relationships with its dealer network."

Hyundai's expanded model range covers all the key market sectors and is one of the freshest looking line-ups in UK showrooms and the brand's results speak for themselves. The Company recorded best-ever sales of just over 82,000 in 2014 up 25 per cent since 2010 and this year is looking set to better that."

Tony Whitehorn said: "Hyundai has undergone something of a transformation in recent years. But that's not enough – we want Hyundai to grow

into something more in the hearts and minds of our customers. We can do this by continuing to offer more cars that people want to buy and by allowing them to buy them and care for them in a way that suits them. That's why it so important to have a strong and transparent relationship with our dealer network."

In the short-term, Hyundai Motor UK is targeting 100,000 sales in the UK, with a medium-term goal of 5 per cent market share.

In the long-term, the company aims to secure a Top 5 sales position among all car brands in the UK.

Hyundai is also in the process of re-vamping its UK dealer network with a new showroom identity – designed to offer visitors an experience that matches the quality of the brand's new models.

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**VAUXHALL**

**Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excl. Ampera): Urban: 12.7 (22.3) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 23.9 (11.8) - 94.2 (3.0), Combined: 18.0 (15.7) - 88.3 (3.2). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: 373 - 85g/km.#**

Personal contract hire offer on Viva SE 1.0i 75PS in Solar Red, subject to availability and status. Age 18+ only. Figures based on a non-maintenance contract hire package with advance rental of £1958, then 23 monthly rentals of £89. Excess miles over contracted mileage of 16,000 over 24 months charged at 5.50ppm. Personal contract hire offer on ADAM SLAM 1.2i 70PS in Greenspotting metallic paint with White My Fire roof colour pack, subject to availability and status. Age 18+ only. Figures based on a non-maintenance contract hire package with advance rental of £2,900, then 23 monthly rentals of £145. Excess miles over contracted mileage of 16,000 over 24 months charged at 6.53ppm. Personal contract hire offer on New Corsa Excite 1.4 90PS a/c in Sovereign Silver, subject to availability and status. Age 18+ only. Figures based on a non-maintenance contract hire package with advance rental of £3,380, then 23 monthly rentals of £169. Excess miles over contracted mileage of 16,000 over 24 months charged at 6.64ppm. Excess charges also apply if you breach manufacturer servicing or maintenance guidelines or if the car exceeds BVRLA Fair Wear & Tear guidelines for its age/mileage when it is returned to Vauxhall Leasing. Package includes Road Fund Licence and Vauxhall Assistance. Guarantee/indemnity may be required. Prices and details are subject to change without notice. For full specification and Ts&Cs contact your local Retailer. **You will not own the car.** ALD Automotive Ltd., trading as Vauxhall Leasing, BS16 3JA. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Offers available on orders or registrations between 2 July and 7 October 2015. #MPG figures are official test data and may not reflect real driving results. Offer applies to pre model year 2016 vehicles only. See Retailer for further details. Correct at time of going to press.



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## lost & found

**LOST AFRICAN GREY PARROT.**  
Thursday, July 16, in the Allestree Road and Lincoln Green area of Bushbury. If any sightings please call on 01902 259531 or 07941 377944.

**LOST** - Blue/black blister pearl pendant, Wotton City Centre/Uni Sci-Fest, Sat, July 11. Reward 07930 568707.

## religious notices

## christadelphian

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## 1 Family

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**caravans / motorhomes**  
BLUEBIRD SUPER DELUXE CARAVAN  
1997 model, on Badgers Glade Holiday Park, Mid Wales. Nice clean condition inside and out.  
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Telephone 07944 384135.

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**LOOK**  
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**PAIR WOODEN GATES** each gate 5ft x 6ft, with hinges and drop bolts, as new. Cost £600 sell £275 ono. 07961 669911.

**holidays**  
**7 DAY COACH BREAK TO SCOTLAND - £382**  
WEDNESDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER  
Highland Hotel Fort William  
SCENIC SCOTLAND  
A 7 day coach holiday staying at our Highland Hotel. There will be an excursion everyday including a cruise on Loch Linnhe, Mallaig, Sunart & Moidart, over to the Isle of Skye by ferry to Armadale, Inverness, Loch Ness, Glencoe, Rannoch Moor & Oban.  
TOUR INCLUDES:  
• 6 Nights Half Board  
• Nightly entertainment  
• Excursions  
PICKUP FROM:  
Birmingham, Smethwick, West Bromwich, Dudley, Wolverhampton, Walsall  
Holidays are fully bonded. School Road, Gartocharm, G83 8FW  
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**what's on**  
**antique fairs**  
ANTIQUE & COLLECTORS FAIR  
Every month, Codsall Village Hall  
Sunday 26th July 9.30am-3pm.  
Call Brian: 07923 536178.

**items wanted**  
ALL GOLD 9ct £300 per ounce  
**CASH PAID TODAY A GENUINE LAID BUYER**  
All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester Moorcroft • Lladro • Old coins  
• Watches • Costume Jewellery • Old toys  
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ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING  
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**A BEST CASH PRICE**  
**FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS**  
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**READERS ARE ADVISED** to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

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1 aerial into 2 rooms £90  
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Work Guaranteed  
Same Day Service  
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Servicing and Repairs  
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Rewires/sockets/fuse boards etc. All domestic and commercial work. 07786 858977/01902 946167.

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concrete posts, gravel boards & heavy duty panels supplied and fitted for  
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For all your Patio's, Turfing, Decking, treework and Root grinding...  
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Call us on: 01384 273586 or 07947 879403 or visit www.prestwoodfencing.co.uk for more details

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A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. 07852 172641 / 07710 360327

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QUICK RESPONSE RENDERING professional, reliable service. Call Stuart anytime, 01902 324727.

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BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH! No Skips, we load, fast friendly service. 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2 8JR. Est 35 years, 01384 232559.

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Lawns cut, Borders, Garden Clearance, Trees lopped and shaped Fencing, Slabbing...  
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**4 Pets & Animals**  
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ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.



**EQUITREK SPACE TREKKA L2 HORSE TRAILER**  
With tack store, lightly used, in clean condition.  
**£3,500 ono**  
Telephone 07766 235306.

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**NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS**  
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

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**GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS**  
All neutered, inoculated and chipped.  
Call Greyhound Trust  
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Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer.

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

**BORDER COLLIE** puppies, red/white, black/white, nicely marked, great temperament. 07747 496737.

**BORDER COLLIES**  
**PIXIE** 9mth small short haired, she is very affection, good in car and with other dogs.  
**TED** 11mth short haired, big black and white boy, very lovable, friendly, ideal pet.  
**SHEP** 9yr very handsome and gentle long haired black/white, would be happy with another dog.

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**01588 676106 or 01588 640932**  
www.dogsamaritans.org.uk

**CAVAPOO PUPPIES** and Juniors, all colours, ready now, £395/£700. 07867 530504 (Bridgnorth).

**KIND HOMES WANTED**  
**BOSS** 5 year labrador cross staff bull terrier, white with black spots, lovely labrador temperament.  
**ADELE** 7 year old staff bull terrier, Boss' Mom, mostly white, lovely girl. Both were adored by their owner who passed away aged 52, so are in kennels through no fault of their own, they have been loved and looked after and they deserve a lovely life if possible together but we would split them up as a last resort so they could have a better life out of kennels.  
**01588 676106**  
www.dogsamaritans.org.uk

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**ROSEDENE RESCUE CENTRE**  
1, Radley Road, Rushall, Walsall, WS4 1LN.  
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Open Monday to Saturday 11am - 5pm  
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Takes in relinquished dogs from owners, all areas (if they are vet checked/up to date with jabs.)  
**Donations of dog food, toys, bedding and vet bills always appreciated.**

**SPECIAL LOVING FOREVER HOMES WANTED**  
**COCO**  
4 year Terrier cross small/medium, black/tan, in rescue due to change in Family circumstances, good with lead, enjoys walks  
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18month Chihuahua cross Pug, little cutie with attitude, neutered, only dog, golden colour  
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www.dogsamaritans.org.uk

**GREYHOUND DOG** 3 years old. Free to good home.  
07970 713977.

**PEDIGREE MINIATURE POODLE** pups, PFA clear, vet checked, vaccinated, wormed to date, ready now, apricot, lemon and black, boys and girls. £750. 01562 780040.

**PUG X JACK RUSSELL** (Jug) Puppy female, 8 weeks, Morn Jack Russell, Dad Pug, Mot, see £280. 01922 750123 or 07811 278292.

**5 Business & Farming**

**business opportunities**

**READERS** are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

**business directory**

**commercial premises**

**VARIOUS UNITS TO LET.** Good rates, Brierly Hill Town Centre.  
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Tuition available  
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**full time - general**

**MINI ONE 1.6**  
2005, 46k miles, metallic black, ABS, air bag, electric windows + mirrors, Air-con, FSH, alarm, long MoT, central locking, PAS, Stereo CD, New tyres.  
**£3,995. o.n.o.**  
Telephone 07570 790258.

**MINI CABRIOLOT**  
2006, black, 10 months MoT, service history, 50,000 miles, lady owner, superb condition.  
**£3,300 ono**  
**07503 670510**

**MAZDA 6 SERIES 2.0** petrol auto, 2007 sportback, 87k, very good condition, very reliable, £1,500. 07474 371548.

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53 Reg., black, Elegance, auto, lady owner, fsh, full leather, all extras.  
**£3,275 o.n.o.**  
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**MERCEDES CLK 240 Blue**, full cream leather, 135k, 04 reg, MoT Sept, genuine reason for sale, fsh, £2,700. 07807 565327.

**FORD FOCUS CONVERTIBLE**  
Folding metal roof, many extras.  
Top of range model, low miles.  
Very good condition,  
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2003, 1100cc, new MoT, recent tyres and exhaust, 2 owners 70,000 miles.  
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**07950 398750.**

**CHEVROLET KALOS 1.4**  
3dr, hatch, 06/55 plate, blue metallic, 46,000 miles, April 2016 MoT in excellent condition.  
**£1,295 ono**  
**07973 826922.**

**CHEVROLET MATIZ 1.0 SE**, 2010, silver, 10,000 miles, 12 months MoT, Excellent condition. £2,400. 07913 906764.

**8 Motoring**

**cars over £1500**

**BMW 318CI CONVERTIBLE**, 52 reg, MoT April, 102,000 miles, fsh, excellent condition, inspection welcome, £1,900. 07583 019478.

**BMW X3 4x4**  
2004, silver grey/gun metal, 12 months MoT, fantastic runner, 90,000 miles.  
**£4,750. o.n.o.**  
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**CHEVROLET MATIZ 1.0 SE**, 2010, silver, 10,000 miles, 12 months MoT, Excellent condition. £2,400. 07913 906764.

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**CONVERTIBLE**

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Top of range model, low miles.  
Very good condition,  
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**07790 480811.**

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**MERCEDES 270 CDI ESTATE**  
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**£3,275 o.n.o.**  
**07852 252582/01902 761298.**

**MERCEDES CLK 240 Blue**, full cream leather, 135k, 04 reg, MoT Sept, genuine reason for sale, fsh, £2,700. 07807 565327.

**MINI CABRIOLOT**  
2006, black, 10 months MoT, service history, 50,000 miles, lady owner, superb condition.  
**£3,300 ono**  
**07503 670510**

**MINI ONE 1.6**  
2005, 46k miles, metallic black, ABS, air bag, electric windows + mirrors, Air-con, FSH, alarm, long MoT, central locking, PAS, Stereo CD, New tyres.  
**£3,995. o.n.o.**  
Telephone 07570 790258.

**MITSUBISHI SHOGUN ELEGANCE**  
diesel, 2005 reg, 43,000 miles, MoT till May 2016, service history, new alarm fitted, excellent condition.  
**£6,300.**  
**07790 069975.**

**TOYOTA AYGO** 16,000 miles, red, five door, 2009, immaculate, £4,400 ono. 07976 124060.

**ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED** that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

**CHEVROLET KALOS 1.4**  
3dr, hatch, 06/55 plate, blue metallic, 46,000 miles, April 2016 MoT in excellent condition.  
**£1,295 ono**  
**07973 826922.**

**CITROEN SAXO DESIRE**  
2003, 1100cc, new MoT, recent tyres and exhaust, 2 owners 70,000 miles.  
**£995.**  
**07950 398750.**

**IMMACULATE**

**FIAT PUNTO 1.2**  
5dr, 2002, 62,000 miles, MoT July 2016, electric windows, central locking, CD player, gold, immaculate.  
**£995.**  
**07939 498854.**

**IMMACULATE**

**FIAT PUNTO**, 2006, 66,000 miles, electric blue, abs, electric windows, air bag, MoT, stereo, CD. Lovely little car. £1,250. 07973 826922.

**FIAT PUNTO**, 2007, grey/silver, 1.2, 3 door, MoT till March 2016. £1,000 ono. 07947 217518.

**FIAT PUNTO GRANDE** Reg. 1.2 litre, 3 door, 2007. 8 mths MoT. £1,400 ono 07947217518

**FORD FIESTA** 2002 met blue 5 door e/w full mot service history looks and drives superb must be seen £995 07846698424

**FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC**  
04 reg, 12 months MoT, 3 door.  
Sky Blue.  
Offers around £650 ono.  
**07453 806666.**

**FORD KA** 04, Red, 66k, long MoT, alloy wheels, stereo, fantastic condition, cheap to run and insure! £895 ono 07860655421

**FORD KA**, 2006, 12 months MoT, red, good clean condition.  
**£5,500.**  
07967 948329 (Dudley).

**FORD MONDEO**  
2000, 2.0 Zetec, alloys, good condition, 6 months MoT, very low miles, only 50,000.  
**£495 ono**  
**07801 597263.**

**FORD MONDEO**  
2001, 2.0, abs, CD, excellent condition, 10 months MoT.  
**£500 ono**  
**07772 795042.**

**FORD MONDEO 2ltr**, diesel, 06 reg, MoT, Sat Nav, parking sensors, £695. 07885 772 238.

**FORD MONDEO Hatch**, 2001, 1800 petrol, good condition, 12 months MoT, nearly new tyres, blue, £595 ono. 01902 897019/07870 241804.

**MITSUBISHI SPACE STAR**  
2004, MoT, abs, CD, dvd, full electrics, low tax, excellent condition.  
**£875 ono**  
**07752 250230.**

**PEUGEOT 206 1.4GLX** 5 door, 2001, MoT, October, 101k, clean and tidy, £495.  
Telephone 07494 075563.

**PEUGEOT 206 2.0GTI**  
2003, petrol, 65,000 miles, half leather interior, CD March changer, alloys, MoT March 2016.  
**£1,200.**  
**07494 485161**

**RENAULT CLIO**  
W reg, electric windows, central locking, alloy wheels, sun roof, excellent condition, good runner.  
**£550 ono**  
**07749 106339.**

**RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE**  
1.6, 56 reg, 70,000 miles, metallic gold, 5-dr hatch, 2 owners from new, MoT April 2016, CD, CL, alarm, AC, £1,400.  
**07954419531.**

**SKODA FABIA 1.4**, silver, 5dr, MoT Feb 2016, good runner, £950 ono. 07411 738855.

**SKODA OCTAVIA**  
2003, 127,000 miles, black, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, MoT, new cat, rear brakes, cambelt.  
**£900 ono.**  
**07867 976617.**

**VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 CLUB**  
Manual, 5 door, hatchback, 2000, 56 reg, 88k miles, silver, e/w, ac, full MoT, alloy wheels, central locking. Very good condition. £1,500.  
**07792 184495.**

**VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4**, December 03, silver, full MoT, very good all round condition, £895 or very near offer. 01902 829438.

**VOLVO C70 AUTOMATIC CONVERTIBLE**  
2003, petrol silver, high miles, MoT October, clean and tidy, £850 ono.  
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ANN, young looking 40yrs  
seeks broadminded man of any  
age/location for no strings dis-  
creet times, games and more.  
**Tel No: 0906 515 4294 Box**  
**No: 412369**  
WENDY, 40, slim, fit, bubbly  
female looking to meet a tall,  
slim, fit, mature male who thinks  
he can keep up. **Tel No: 0906**  
**500 3955 Box No: 418369**  
ANNA, busty mature lady seeks  
no strings discreet meetings  
with male any age or location.  
**Tel No: 0906 515 4295 Box No:**  
**366019**  
EILEEN, slim green eyed  
brunette likes meals out and  
cosy nights in, seeks tall male  
who would make her laugh and  
brighten up her day. **Tel No:**  
**0906 500 3955 Box No:**  
**418347**  
FEMALE fun brunette, attrac-  
tive, 26, seeking male for friend-  
ship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906**  
**500 3955 Box No: 416287**  
FEMALE seeking gent 55-70,  
down to earth, nice and intelli-  
gent who knows how to treat a  
lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955**  
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YOUNG early 40's female,  
GSOH, kind, caring, consider-  
ate, seeks male for friendship,  
possible romance. **Tel No: 0906**  
**500 3955 Box No: 410847**  
CAROL 49, attractive, green  
eyed blonde, honest warm  
hearted, n/s with GSOH likes  
cinema, music, walking, meals  
out and travel seeking similar  
male. **Text only to Mailbox No:**  
**4283683**  
FEMALE, 50, short blond hair,  
blue eyes, 5ft 10, slim build,  
looking for a man 50-55 with  
salt and pepper hair and GSOH.  
**Text only to Mailbox No:**  
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HEATHER, 34, single very  
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I'm your girl. call me. **Tel No:**  
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JAN, 47, once bitten twice shy!  
Looking for not complicated fun  
times. Attractive, discreet,  
OHAC, you won't be disappoint-  
ed. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box**  
**No: 418089**  
MID naughty forties female look-  
ing fun, thrills and discreet  
meets, give me a call, you won't  
be disappointed. Any age with  
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**Box No: 418277**  
AMANDA, 36, tall, slim, busty  
brunette seeks man, any age,  
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fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 4292 Box**  
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JO 55, curvy redhead, loves  
eating out, theatre, travel, look-  
ing for middle-aged prince  
charming to sweep me off my  
feet. **Text only to Mailbox No:**  
**4464905**  
GILLY, voluptuous well  
groomed lady, seeks man to  
massage and pamper. **Tel No:**  
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GENUINE lady looking for friend-  
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ship and to have a laugh with.  
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**No: 412369**  
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tive, 26, seeking male for friend-  
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social would like to meet bubbly  
kind lady for see what happens.  
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MALE, 48, looking for a 30-45 yr  
old female who has an interest  
in countryside pursuits. **Text**  
**only to Mailbox No: 4829696**  
MALE, 59, discreet, fit body,  
seeks lady for no strings fun.  
**Text only to Mailbox No:**  
**4823076**  
SINGLE male non smoker, look-  
ing for soul mate, laid back guy  
who likes outdoors, walking my  
dog and occasional mountain  
biking. **Text only to Mailbox**  
**No: 4763550**  
DAVE 55, seeks tiny broadminded  
slim, small breasted, long  
hair blonde/ginger female for  
adult fun/LTR. **Text only to**  
**Mailbox No: 4757127**

CUDDLY 50-year-old male, hard  
working, seeks genuine woman  
for days and nights out and no  
strings fun. **Text only to**  
**Mailbox No: 4437594**  
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any age to have a laugh with so  
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**Mailbox No: 4320134**  
DUBLINER, good sense of  
humour, strong and very fit  
would love to meet a warm sen-  
sitive lady, non smoker. **Text**  
**only to Mailbox No: 4754715**  
WIDOWER would love to meet  
female over 70 for friendship.  
Car owner. Fed up being lonely.  
**Text only to Mailbox No:**  
**4760869**  
MALE, 50yrs, caring, easy  
going seeks female 40/50 for  
friendship/relationship. **Text**  
**only to Mailbox No: 4761012**  
TALL, dark, attractive guy, 49,  
seeks attractive, younger female  
for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500**  
**3955 Box No: 316752**  
DENNIS 72, widower, seeking  
female, 60-65 for friendship,  
travel companion, maybe more.  
**Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:**  
**417927**

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Chinese/Jamaican/Romanian  
male/female for friendship. **Tel**  
**No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:**  
**418245**  
NEIL 51, GSOH, WLTm, a car-  
ing, sensitive lady for romantic  
nights and possible LTR, 32-56.  
**Text only to Mailbox No:**  
**4670827**  
SINGLE male, likes camping,  
walking, cycling, dogs, sightsee-  
ing, WLTm n/s healthy female for  
companionship, West Midlands  
safari park area. **Text only to**  
**Mailbox No: 4845428**  
VERY fit 5'8 sporty attractive,  
pro Black male seeks lady 35-  
58, any nationality for tactile  
LTR. **Text only to Mailbox No:**  
**4843660**  
COLIN 48, seeks large cuddly  
lady 47-56 for LTR/Romance.  
Single Mums welcome. **Text**  
**only to Mailbox No: 4730876**  
JOHN 26, GSOH, likes the out-  
doors, wine and good food,  
medium athletic build, WLTm  
older woman for fun and friend-  
ship. **Text only to Mailbox No:**  
**4488256**  
WIDOWER 70's, lonely, educat-  
ed, well travelled, reliable, tac-  
tile, seeks fun, N/S lady for  
friendship and more. **Tel No:**  
**0906 500 3955 Box No:**  
**416481**  
VICTOR, retired, 5ft 8ins, pro-  
fessional, seeks N/S lady for  
fun, friendship and happy times.  
**Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:**  
**309157**  
ANDY 40, own home, likes keep  
fit, cooking, nights in/out, seeks  
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## Stour sides get mixed fortunes in matches

**Stourbridge 2nd XI 150 -10 Old Elizabethans 2nd XI 154-1 Old Elizabethans win by 24**  
CARETAKER skipper, Matt Norgrove leading a weakened Stour side decided to bat first.

Stour lost openers Calum Litster and Areeb Mohammed cheaply.

Despite the efforts from youngsters Scott Ludlum (52), Tom Jennings (32), and skipper Norgrove (23) the score ended below par.

**Stourbridge 3rd XI 12-10 West Malvern 1st XI 186-9 West Malvern win**

Placed fifth in Division five (1st XI) of the Worcestershire league, Stour made the best from fielding a weakened side.

West Malvern skipper Steve Wright batted first and gave his side a sound start by posting 67 opening the batting.

He was eventually out caught off the bowling of skipper Dave Colesby.

A late 25 from Matt Penkoks batting at number six let the visitors into the game.

Japer Davidson a county junior prospect was the pick of the bowlers bagging four wickets for 42 off 10 overs.

Opener Steve Parker (25) and 22 from the County star Davidson were the main contributors but Stour fell well short of the target.

**Stourbridge 4th XI 225-3West Malvern 2nd XI 106-10 Stourbridge win**

Stour skipper, Dan Haywood earned the nickname of Jose Mourinho by beating a 2nd XI opposition fielding a weak Stour side with possibilities of topping Division Five (2nd XI) for the second time in three years.

# Mogridge looks to make up time



Arron Mogridge

CRADLEY ace Arron Mogridge is looking to make up for lost time when he starts a busy August at reserve in the crucial clash with Birmingham.

Mogridge has suffered a sticky spell with a loss of confidence and will be relegated to the bottom two of the side by Ellis Perks.

He makes his first appearance in the crucial lower order slot against runaway leaders Birmingham on August 5.

Now he's hoping to start piling up the points and play a crucial role as the Heathens chase National League glory.

Mogridge said: "It's been a rough few

weeks for me, I've not been scoring very well and I've been well aware I've been underperforming.

"When you are struggling it takes its toll on your confidence, and it can be hard to get out of that so having a good meeting against Stoke was really important.

"I was making good starts, and I had four paid wins out of five which was exactly what I needed. I want to keep my confidence high now and keep scoring points, I definitely don't want to go back to riding as I was because it certainly doesn't feel great.

"It's going to be tough, but hopefully I

can turn things around now and find some consistency again because that's the main thing for me."

Mogridge will also feature in the club's prestigious individual event, the F.A.S.T Golden Hammer, at Perry Barr on August 12.

Birmingham star Adam Ellis will be one of the pre-meeting favourites along with Heathens skipper Max Clegg, Eastbourne's new sensation Bradley Wilson-Dean, Wolverhampton's Josh Bates and former Heathens favourite Ashley Morris. (Pic John Hipkiss)

# Glassboys knocked out of cup contest

**Redditch United 2 Stourbridge 1 THE Worcestershire Senior Cup is being played as a pre-season tournament this season.**

And the cup game gave both sides their first taste of competitive action, even though the regular season is still almost a month away.

The first chance fell to the home side on five minutes when some sloppy defending allowed Jordan Cullimaime-Liburd time to fire in a shot hat cannoned off the outside of Charlie Price's left-hand post.

But it was the Glassboys who opened the scoring after 14 minutes.

A reverse pass from Lee Chilton set Drew Canavan clear down the left and his cross picked out the onrushing Inshall in the middle who had the simplest task to nod the ball over the line.

The advantage last just three minutes though as Jamey Osborne curled a free-kick from just outside the penalty area against Price's left-hand upright and rebounded across goal for Jordan Archer to steer home.

## Diagonal

The Glassboys hit back almost immediately with a long diagonal free-kick from Leon Broadhurst on the left being headed down by Kristian Green at the back of the box for Smikle to push a low first-time shot inches wide.

However, it was Redditch, kicking down the slope, who were beginning to forge the better openings.

There was a close shave for the Glassboys on 53 minutes as Broadhurst got back to clear off the line from Archer, while Green went close for Stourbridge, his flicked header from another Tonks throw forcing substitute keeper Josh Moreton to claw the ball to safety.

Price was again called into action on the hour to turn a free-kick from Jamey Osbourne round the post after sub Louis Harris had picked up a yellow card for a late challenge 25 yards from goal.

Broadhurst looked to have made a good challenge to halt Troy Baker on the left, but Baker persevered and his cross picked out substitute Luke Shearer who slotted the ball past Price Stourbridge play their first home friendly on Tuesday July 28 against Stafford Rangers.

## Sykes enjoys success in rally



Stourbridge rally driver Sykes on the Nicky Grist Stages. Picture Nigel Pratt

STOURBRIDGE rally driver Richard Sykes enjoyed a very successful Nicky Grist Stages rally when he finished second two wheel drive car and second in class.

Sykes gained the position in his Bathams Brewery, Boroughbridge Marina, G I Sykes and Body Clinic-supported Citroën DS3.

The Llandovery event was round three of the BTRDA Rally

Challenge and, after a disappointing retirement on the last round on the Isle of Man, Sykes was keen to get a good haul of points this time out.

The rally comprised two loops of four gravel stages featuring many of the roads used in Britain's World Rally Championship round. Sykes was immediately on the pace, setting the second fastest time in his class on the opening

Monument stage. It was a position he was to maintain all day and he finished well ahead of the third in class competitor.

"I'm delighted with the result, it was vital that we scored plenty of points in the championship after the Manx retirement," said Sykes.

"We had a pretty faultless day really, the car was trouble free."

"Emma Morrison navigated for me and she was brilliant all day."

## Stourbridge kick off season at Seaside

THE Glassboys start their season at the seaside against Whitby Town on August 15 with their first home game three days later facing Nantwich. The full fixtures are:

August  
15 Whitby Town A; 18 Nantwich Town H; 22 Worthington H; 24 Ilkeston A; 29 Skelmersdale United A; 31 Rushall Olympic H;

September  
5 Buxton A; 8 Barwell H; 19 Blyth Spartans H; 22 Ramsbottom United A; 29 Grantham Town H

October  
3 Hyde United A; 6 Colwyn Bay A; 10 Matlock Town H; 13 Sutton Coldfield Town H; 17 Darlington A; 20 Ilkeston H; 24 Worthington A; 27 Nantwich Town A

November  
7 Whitby Town H; 21 Mickleover Sports A; 28 Ashton United H

December  
5 Salford City A; 12 Marine H; 19 Blyth Spartans A; 26 Halesowen Town H; 28 Rushall Olympic A

January  
2 Ramsbottom United H; 09 Stamford A; 16 Frickley Athletic H; 23 Skelmersdale United H; 26 Barwell A; 30 Hyde H

February  
6 Grantham Town A; 13 Colwyn Bay H; 20 Matlock Town A; 23 Sutton Coldfield Town A; 27 Darlington H

March  
5 Frickley Athletic A; 12 Stamford H; 26 Buxton H; 28 Halesowen Town A

April  
2 Ashton United A; 9 Mickleover Sports H; 16 Marine A; 23 Salford City H

## Tivdale take Hayes down in friendly

### Heath Hayes 0 Tivdale 2

HEATH Hayes gave as good as they got when they entertained EvoStik Division 1 Tivdale.

It might have been a different scoreline if it hadn't have been for two fantastic saves from the Tivdale keeper and a terrific shot from Ryan Burns blocked by a defender and Dan Scragg lifting the rebound over the bar

Tivdale took an early lead when the ball rebounded of a Hayes' defender past Eden Taylor for an unfortunate own goal.

Tivdale doubled their score when their centre forward was allowed to run freely through to beat Taylor.

Although Hayes matched Tivdale they could not find that goalscoring touch needed to get something out of a match.

## New signing Coady loving life at Wolves

RECENT signing Conor Coady got his first 90 minutes of pre-season under his belt and declared - 'I'm loving life at Wolves'.

The 22-year-old joined the club from Huddersfield earlier this month and has settled straight in at Molineux, featuring in all three of Wolves' friendlies so far.

Coady is likely to be a key player for Wolves this season after starring for Huddersfield in the Championship last year.

And he said he was glad to play his first full game of the pre-season campaign in Wolves' 1-0 win over Burton.

"It's always needed to get that first 90 minutes under your belt and we can move on to next week now," Coady said. "I loved the game, it was great."

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## McClean is told to shake off stigma

ALBION boss Tony Pulis has urged summer signing James McClean to shake off the 'stigma' surrounding him after holding talks about the winger's snub of the English flag.

Pulis held a meeting with McClean in the wake of the incident on the club's pre-season tour of America in which he refused to face the cross of St George during the national anthem.

And the Baggies boss has warned McClean, who is from a republican background in Northern Ireland, to protect his reputation after a career that has also seen him refuse to wear a Remembrance Day poppy out of respect for people killed on Bloody Sunday.

"Obviously there has been a stigma around him and he doesn't need to start that up again," said Pulis. "So hopefully we've nipped it in the bud and we can get on with our things and he can get on with his things."

"I didn't see the situation but I had a chat with him and explained what we do as a football club and the way we are and I think he's fine with everything."

"We've got Northern Ireland lads in the squad and he's been absolutely fantastic with them, and the way he's mixed and integrated with the group has been brilliant."

"I've seen the pictures and he's got to turn towards the flag like everybody else has and he recognises that."

"We want him to be as open and honest as he possibly can within the group and the group want to be as open and honest as they can with him. It's just about integrating him."

McClean opened the scoring with a strike in a 2-1 win at Richmond Kickers in the final game of the Baggies' trip.

## Dicko does it with a single strike in friendly contest

Burton 0 Wolves 1

AS THINGS became decidedly unsettled off the field, the opposite was true for Wolves on it.

A regulation 1-0 victory, another clean sheet, some encouraging displays and 90 minutes under the belt for five players made this a successful day out for Kenny Jackett's team.

But with Wolves' squad still looking thin - even before James Henry's likely exit to Charlton - and Kevin McDonald's increasingly-ugly contract saga showing no signs of a conclusion, all is not rosy for Jackett.

McDonald's absence from the team, despite being named in the original squad for Wolves' first friendly on English soil this season, raised eyebrows before kick-off. And after the game Jackett confirmed McDonald was 'unsettled' and so had been left out.

After experimenting with a diamond formation in France, Jackett went 4-4-1-1 this time, but Afobe could pop up wherever he pleased.

His performance was the highlight of the afternoon. Afobe also created the game's only goal, feeding Nouha Dicko.

## Skipper helps side to winning draw

Old Elizabethans 1st XI 213-79 Stourbridge 250-6

Stourbridge winning draw

OLD Elizabethans are sixth in Division Two of the Birmingham and District Premier League. Stourbridge are still third from the bottom with 106 points.

Skipper Matt Bradley helped his side steer away from possible relegation by notching up a ton.

Stour recovered from an early blow losing the wicket of Alex Bingham caught and bowled by Liam Booth for six.

The recovery came through XI, Chris Norgrove

Cricket

and Matt Bradley. Overcoming early nerves, Norgrove battled to 32 when he was caught off John Major but the Stour total had moved on to 74 on a true batting track.

Thirteen runs later James Winders batting at number four was out, caught off Matt Davis for seven.

Skipper Bradley and Andy Alexander took the score from 87 to 206 in 18 overs. By that time Bradley had taken his score to 104 off 130 balls. Having given his side a sound platform Bradley

was caught off Matt Davis in the 48th over. Alexander increased the momentum in the final overs taking his score to 73 no off 65 balls boosting Stour's confidence.

Not having their best bowling attack available Stour managed to take three wickets for 68 runs introducing the spin of Andy Alexander. James Boyle was caught driving off Jitesh Jivan-Patel for six, Damon Gariff was bowled by Andy Alexander for 27 and the No.3 John Major was caught behind off Jivan-Patel for 25 in the 22nd over.

Stour's next challenge will be division league leaders Bridgnorth at home starting midday.

● More results inside

# SAM THE SLAM TAKES THE TITLE

STOURBRIDGE'S Sam Eggington added the British welterweight title to his Commonwealth crown with a dominant stoppage victory over Glenn Foot, writes Craig Birch.

The two domestic rivals clashed on the big Matchroom Boxing bill at the Manchester Arena on Saturday night.

Needle between the two intensified at Friday's weigh in, where Foot stuck his head in Eggington's face. He wouldn't come out on top when they clashed again.

Foot was pulled out at the end of the eighth round with a gaping wound by his right eye, caused by an accidental head clash.

When the ring doctor ordered the contest couldn't continue, the bout had to go to the cards. All three judges went with Eggington and by some distance.

He said: "I'm buzzing, it was meant to be my hardest opponent yet and I made it look easy. I thought I controlled the fight."

"The belts I have won on the road have been great, but it's all been in the run up to the British title. It means so much to me."

Foot's intimidation tactics were still in place at the off, when he smacked his gloves against Eggington's forearms as the two touched up.

Tagging

He flew out of the blocks, too, tagging Eggington with a big right hand in the first round which only succeeded to wake him up.

Eggington bossed the second and kept him at range, although Foot fought back in round three as he lunged in with attacks.

That play was soon worked out by Eggington, who tagged him with right hands as he waded forward, setting up the left hook to the body.

Tempers flared at the end of the fifth as Eggington, this time, butted heads with Foot as they retreated to their corners.

Then Foot came under fire in the sixth when he was trapped in the ropes with Eggington throwing hooks hell for leather, although he managed to duck down and escape.

There was no getting away from the venom of an evil left hook body from Eggington in the



Sam Eggington in the thick of the action against Glenn Foot at the Manchester Arena

seventh which left him hanging on for dear life, referee Steve Gray deducting a point for holding. Combination punches were flying in and landing at will in the eighth, where the blood flow got the attentions of the ringside doctor.

Despite Foot's protests, he was waved off. Knowing he was behind, he conceded defeat. The judges were almost in unison.

Howard Foster had it 80-71, a landslide taking into account the point off. Phil Edwards said 80-72, probably for a drawn first, while Terry O'Con-

nor almost certainly gave Foot the opener, 79-72. Eggington said: "It wasn't an early stoppage, but I felt like almost every round was mine. I knew he'd come out swinging, trying to knock me out with that big right hand."

"To be honest, he didn't hit as hard as people told me he would. He caught me in the first round, but it didn't shock or faze me. I just had to wake up."

"He got stung by a body shot and that got the ball rolling."

## McCarey is given ban but can play

WOLVES goalkeeper Aaron McCarey has vowed to make the most of his "second chance" now he is once again free to play.

The 23-year-old has been suspended for four months by the FA, after testing positive for a non-performance enhancing substance.

But with the ban backdated to April 21 - the date of the original suspension - and the rest suspended for two years, the shotstopper is once again available for selection and was due to make his return for the under-21s at Corby Town.

McCarey, who stated throughout he had not knowingly taken the substance, admits he feared at one stage his career might be over.

He said: "It is a second chance, if you like and I am really grateful to have it."

"At one point I thought my career was finished. It has been a long three months."

McCarey added: "I understand some fans will always have a question and maybe not believe I am saying."

And he said: "I'm sorry the good name of the club has been dragged into this situation but hopefully this will draw a line under it and we can move on."

The ruling followed an FA investigation following the failed test.

Wolves head coach Kenny Jackett said: "Aaron has maintained all along that he has no idea how the drug entered his system."

"Medical and scientific analysis, commissioned by the Professional Footballers' Association on behalf of Aaron, and including a hair follicle test requested by the player himself, also showed that the trace amount was very small and backed up Aaron's statement."

## Himley Under-9s win soft ball title

HIMLEY Cricket Club is celebrating due to its Under-9s winning the North Worcestershire Softball title.

At the weekend Himley Under 9s won the title at Stourbridge cricket Club.

The Softball Competition started at the beginning of May with 20 teams entered on a group basis with the four qualifying group winners playing each other on Sunday. Their opponents were Envile CC, Ombersley CC and their own teammates as Himley had two teams in the top group.

Himley A won all three matches and the reserve team one game meaning the club finished first and third.

★★★

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